TUESDAY
May 23, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

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NITISH VISITS RAHUL

Opposition parties to meet soon: Congress

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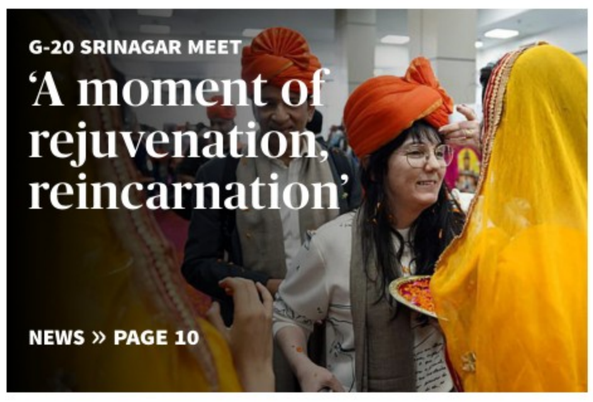

G-20 SRINAGAR MEET

'A moment of rejuvenation, reincarnation'

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BAN ON E-CIGARETTES

Centre issues notice for stricter compliance

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DATA POINT

Antarctic sea ice cover hits many record lows

This poses a threat to sea levels, ecosystems

OPINION » PAGE 9

FINAL BECKONS

Titans meet Super Kings in Qualifier 1

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Fresh violence puts Manipur on edge

Abandoned houses torched in second incident of violence in 12 hours; ex-MLA 'behind the conspiracy' arrested, says Chief Minister Biren Singh

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Army and paramilitary personnel brought the situation under control after a mob set ablaze a few abandoned houses. ANI

Security forces tightened vigil and curfew was extended after a fresh incident of violence in Manipur's capital Imphal on Monday.

Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh said a former MLA "behind the conspiracy" to trigger another round of unrest was picked up along with two others armed with single-barrel guns after they asked roadside vendors, mostly women, to vacate the New Checkon area of Imphal West district around 10 a.m. The former MLA instigated the armed men, he said.

As the news of the intimidation spread, a mob arrived and torched some abandoned houses, officials said. Army and paramilitary personnel brought the situation under control.

This was the second such incident in less than 12 hours. On Sunday night, three persons sustained minor injuries in Imphal West district when a man wielding a double-barrel gun attacked them. The attacker was arrested.

"Peace was slowly returning to Manipur in the last 10 days. But after the minor clash on Sunday, another incident took place in the heart of Imphal today," Mr. Singh told journalists. He appealed to the people to trust the peace-building process of the government monitored by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Do not rush to swap ₹2,000 notes: RBI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Seeking to allay concerns about the legal tender status of ₹2,000 currency notes after the September 30 deadline for their exchange or deposit, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday clarified that there was no need to rush to the banks; the last date was only meant to nudge people to return the notes soon.

Speaking in Delhi, he said a time limit had been specified along with the May 19 decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 notes from circulation just to ensure that the "announcement is taken seriously", adding that there were adequate currency stocks with the banking system to replace these notes.

While banks have been advised to make suitable arrangements for people to exchange the notes, Mr. Das indicated he did not expect bank branches to see the kind of rush as in 2016, after the old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes were scrapped.

Shaktikanta Das

"I will appeal to people there is no need to rush to the banks – four months' time has been given. You can do it anytime that it suits you. By September 30, please exchange it," he pleaded, emphasising that not setting a deadline would have made the process "endless".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Modi extols the value of Pacific island nations

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Small island nations of the Pacific Ocean are in fact "large ocean states", said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, highlighting the importance of the 14 members of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

In the opening session of the FIPIC-3 summit in Port Moresby, Mr. Modi spoke in favour of a free and open Indo-Pacific region and focused on India's commitment to assisting the development goals of the member-countries.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Rain catches BBMP off guard

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the monsoon just weeks away, the devastation caused by Sunday's rain in Bengaluru city again shows the lack of preparedness of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The city administration received flak for the same issue last year.

Officials have claimed that elections and delay in payment to contractors slowed down preparation work. Unless immediate measures are taken up, the areas that were flooded last year might face the same situation again.

Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Commissioner, BBMP, said Sunday's accident was caused by 50 mm of rain that lashed in 45 minutes.

RELATED REPORTS » PAGES 4 & 5

NEARBY

MLAs take oath on first day of legislature session

BENGALURU
Though a majority of the newly-elect MLAs took oath in the name of God and the Constitution of India, a few of them took oath in the name of voters and local deities.

» PAGE 6

Ex-CM challenges new govt. to prove allegations

BENGALURU
Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday challenged the newly formed Congress government to prove with evidence its allegations that his dispensation was collecting a commission of 40% from contractors.

» PAGE 6

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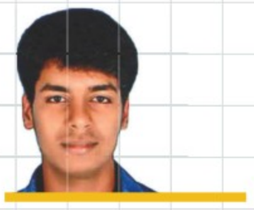
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Jyothi Surekha's new mantra: process over scores

'I am focusing on executing my shot sequence. I don't remember when this idea struck me, but it has helped; I focused on maintaining my rhythm rather than getting a 10 or a total of 150 in Antalya'

Back with a bang: Jyothi, after going through a lean patch in 2022, has strung her bow with determination and produced consistent performances. She even equalled the world record (713 points) in Antalya. WORLD ARCHERY

ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi

Focusing on the process instead of scores has worked wonders for V. Jyothi Surekha. Having claimed her maiden individual gold medal in the Archery World Cup Stage-1 in Antalya, and two mixed team gold medals in the first two stages of the World Cup, the ace compound archer is now looking forward to carry her good work into bigger events like the World Championships and the Asian Games later this year.

It was a confidence-boosting performance for Jyothi, a multiple Worlds medallist, as she bounced back from a lean patch last year. Back then, she had failed to be in the top-four in the selection trials and could not make it to the Indian team.

Now, she has asserted her class at the global level once again, topping the ranking round in Antalya by equalling the world record of 713 points and combining with young archer Ojas Deotale to claim the mixed team gold.

The 26-year-old from Vijayawada looks back at the low phase of her career to put her recent performance in perspective. "Everything turned upside down for me in 2022," Jyothi says. "It happened because maybe I was tired. And, on the second day of the trials, it was windy and I could not shoot properly. I could not perform like others. It was not my day."

"It was a big shock for me and I took some time to recover. I took a 15-day break, spent time with my family and rested well," she adds.

Revival

Jyothi got a second chance when a few archers did not perform as expected and the trial had to be conducted again. She made a comeback to the Indian team and went on to claim an individual silver and a mixed team gold (with Abhishek Verma) in the third leg of the World Cup in Paris. A World Games mixed team bronze (with Abhishek) in Birmingham (USA) followed.

"I am not focusing on the scores anymore," Jyothi says. "Rather, I am focusing on executing my shot sequence. I don't remember when this idea struck me, but it has helped... I am happy to shoot such good scores again. I focused on maintaining my rhythm rather than getting a 10 or a total of 150 (in Antalya)."

> Coach Sergio did not make any changes on the technical side, but he has worked on my strength and mental side of the game. Actually, he works individually with archers as per their requirements

She raves about her young mixed team partner Deotale. "We supported each other. It was the first time I shot with him, directly in competition. He shot very well." The duo continued to focus on their coordination and shooting process in the World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai to win their second successive mixed team gold.

Training with foreign coach Sergio Pagni also boosted Jyothi's game. "Sergio did not make any changes on the technical side, but he has worked on my strength and mental side of the game."

Some specific exercises, including the tough ones with battle rope, have been included for improving strength since Sergio started working with India's elite compound archers in December 2022.

"I do these exercises three days a week. Actually, he works individually with archers as per their requirements."

Always backed by her parents to take up sports, Jyothi - whose name entered the Limca Book of Records for crossing River Krishna as a four-year-old - is keen to maintain her performance in the upcoming events - the remaining two World Cup stages, the World Cup final, the World championships and the Asian Games. "The events are lined up one after the other. The World championships and the Asian Games are top priority."

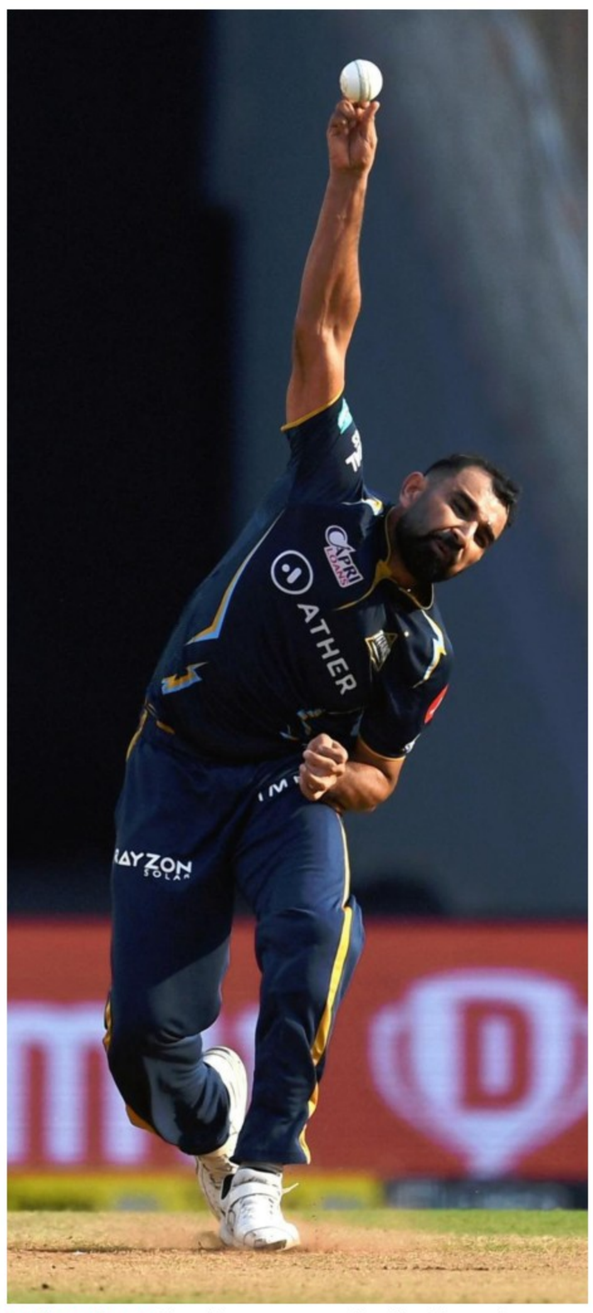
Despite all the world-level medals, Jyothi, an Arjuna Award winner, says she has not been recognised enough. "Everyone asks whether our sport is there in the Olympics. As a society our mindset is such. What's our fault if the event is not there in the Olympics?"

"I have won medals at the highest level, including the World Games, which is equivalent to the Olympics (as events which are not part of the Olympics programme are placed in the World Games). Several countries give a lot of value to a World Games medal, whereas in our country it's not so. There are no cash incentives."

But Jyothi is hopeful that compound archery will be included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "I hope the proposal will be accepted and we will also be able to showcase our skills there."

As Indian compound archery is making good progress, Jyothi is happy to note that several talented archers are proving their worth. "Many new archers are coming up and shooting high scores. Several sub-junior archers are now competing at the elite level. The competition is getting tougher and it's good for the sport's future," Jyothi signs off, with optimism.

Shami's seam position is as good as anyone's in the modern game: Knight



Perfect release: Shami has great control and is right up there with the top bowlers, according to Knight. AFP

P.K. Ajith Kumar

As England opener, Nick Knight has faced some of the greatest pace bowlers of all-time such as Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Glenn McGrath, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Allan Donald. He is glad he didn't have to face Mohammed Shami.

"The seam position when the ball leaves Shami's hand is as good as anyone's ever in the modern game," said Knight, who played 17 Tests and 100 ODIs, in an interview to *The Hindu*. "He has great control, and when there's a little bit of movement off the surface, I can't think of too many I would rather least face as a former opening batter. He would be right up there with my top bowlers."

Shami has been breathing fire at this IPL. He has been one of the key contributors in Gujarat Titans' excellent show as the defending champion made it to the playoffs by topping the league standings.

Missing Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah is the other Indian pacer to have impressed Knight as much. "His injury is a massive blow to the Indian team," he said. "From my generation to how things are now with Indian cricket, the pace bowling has been one of the big, big changes. The pace bowlers, their numbers and the reserves of pace bowling... it has made a massive difference to India."

> **The pace bowlers, their numbers and the reserves of pace bowling... it has made a massive difference to India**

Knight, who scored 3637 runs at an average of 40.41, is looking forward to seeing how the Indian pacers and their Australian counterparts square off in the World Test Championship final at The Oval next month.

"It's going to be an amazing game," he said. "It would be a great atmosphere at The Oval with two fantastic sides. It would be a great spectacle."

Well matched

He believes India and Australia are well matched. "I don't think it's easy for any side just to arrive in England and play one Test match," he said. "I think that is particularly challenging, because the conditions in England can be quite unique at times, although generally the surface at The Oval is a very good one."

He likes the concept of the world championship for Test cricket. "Anything to try and promote Test match cricket is good and gets my vote," he said. "We need to protect Test cricket."

Haller toasts Dortmund's title chance after cancer battle

Associated Press
DUESSELDORF

From cancer treatment to the brink of a German league title. Sebastien Haller is having an extraordinary season.

Haller was diagnosed with testicular cancer in July, weeks after signing with Borussia Dortmund. Not only did he return to playing, he has scored crucial goals to leave Dortmund one game away from ending Bayern Munich's decade-long streak of Bundesliga titles.

"If someone had told me six months ago that I'd be in this position, I wouldn't have believed it," said Haller after scoring twice in Sunday's 3-0 win over Augsburg that put the team atop the standings. "I think it's a great opportunity, not only for me, but for the team. I think we invested a lot in this and now we have a huge chance to achieve something big. So let's see."

Back in business

Six months ago in November, Haller was undergoing the second of two operations as part of his cancer treatment. The care also included four cycles of chemotherapy, each meaning five days in a hospital bed.

When Haller returned to training Jan. 3, there was talk of a lengthy, gradual process before he'd return to the team. Ten days later, he scored a hat-trick in seven minutes in a friendly against Swiss club Basel. Nine days after that, he made a belated Bundesliga debut for Dortmund.

Talisman: Since Haller's return, Dortmund has transformed from an also-ran to a title favourite. AP

"With my return, I hope that it can give a boost," he said. It certainly has.

Since Haller's return, Dortmund has transformed from an also-ran to the title favourite. Dortmund was in sixth place and nine points off Bayern at the winter break. Since then, in 18 Bundesliga games with Haller on the field, Dortmund has won 14, drawn three, and lost one.

The Ivory Coast striker has nine goals, including five in the last three games, and has played a key role creating space and chances for other forwards like Donyell Malen and Karim Adeyemi.

Striker's instinct

Haller's two goals against Augsburg showed his striker's instinct. For the first, he snapped up a loose ball and scored after defender Maximilian Bauer failed to control an intercepted cross. For the second, he made sure he was in the right place at the right time to knock in the rebound when teammate Marco Reus' shot was saved.

Now Dortmund needs one more win against Mainz on Saturday to secure its first German title since 2012, when Jurgen Klopp was the coach. That would mean Haller achieving something that his predecessor as Dortmund striker, Erling Haaland, never managed.

"We just need to stick to the principle, stick together, with the same work rate that we we've shown in the past and today," Haller said. "And it will come, you know, there's no magic. It's just investment, a lot of work and positivity."

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The Hindu Education Plus career counselling from June 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 21st edition of The Hindu Education Plus career counselling will be held at 10 locations in nine cities across Karnataka from June 3.

The event will provide guidance to those writing the CET, the NEET or the UPSC examination, while also helping those who aspire to pursue courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Fashion Designing, Journalism, Animation, Performing Arts, Management, and many more.

The event will provide a platform to connect students and parents with experts and educational institutions. The event also helps students make the right decisions after getting the right counselling and guidance. The timings for registration is between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.

The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For details, contact: 9845095781 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. All participating students will get a career counselling book for free.

Sponsors

The silver sponsors are Atria Institute of Technology - Bengaluru, GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women - Mysuru, Insights IAS - Bengaluru, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research - Mysuru, Malnad College of Engineering - Hassan, R V University - Bengaluru, St Joseph Engineering College - Mangaluru, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering - Mysuru

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The Hindu Education Plus career counselling - 2023

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Mangaluru	03/06/2023	Geetha S.M. Shetty Hall	Ramakrishna College, Bunts' Hostel Circle, Mangaluru
Jayanagar	03/06/2023	NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium	22nd Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru
Davangere	04/06/2023	GM Institute of Technology	Auditorium Hall, Post Box No.4, P.B. Road, Davangere
Bidar	04/06/2023	Sri Poojya Channabasava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir	Near district stadium, Bidar
Malleswaram	10/06/2023	Chowdiah Memorial Hall	16th Cross Road. Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Hubballi	10/06/2023	K.L.E Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi
Ballari	10/06/2023	Basavarajeshwari Public School & College (BPSC)	Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysuru	11/06/2023	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering	P.B. No.206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru
Tumakuru	11/06/2023	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru
Kalaburagi	18/06/2023	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

Alok Mohan takes over as in-charge DG&IGP

He says his priority is to ensure every complaint at police stations are attended to and that he will have zero tolerance for policemen who fail to do so

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minutes after taking over as in-charge head of the State police force, Alok Mohan on Monday said that his priority is to ensure every complaint at police stations are attended to and that he will have zero tolerance for policemen who fail to do so.

Mr. Mohan has been made in-charge Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG&IGP) of the State, after Praveen Sood vacated the post to become Director, Central Bureau of Investigation.

However, given that Mr. Mohan, a 1987-batch officer, is the seniormost in the State after Mr. Sood, he is likely to be appointed DG&IGP soon after the formalities are completed.

Addressing the media after taking charge, Mr. Mohan said that his priority will be maintaining law and order and zero tolerance for anyone who disturbs peace in society.

Mr. Mohan reiterated that he is committed to providing a clean and good administration. "The State police is adjudged as one of the best in the country, and this was proved again with regard to the conduct of the Assembly elections with no untoward incidents. This has to be maintained and the zero-tolerance approach is also applicable to erring police officials," he said.

Mr. Mohan also said the focus will be on criminal investigation, particularly detection of crimes against women and children, cyber crimes, and white-collar crimes. He said the cyber crime investigation was not up to the mark and that apart from strengthening existing stations, more cyber crime police stations will be opened. The fight against drug abuse is also another area of concern, he added.

He also said that focus must be on traffic management rather than enforcement. "The traffic police should be more focused on traffic management and reduce vehicle checks. This aspect needs further fine-tuning," he said.

He said that there was a need for police personnel to upgrade their technical skills and physical and mental endurance to meet challenges. "I am committed to rewarding good officers and punishing the bad ones," he said, warning police personnel to strive hard to maintain standards.

Alok Mohan (right), in-charge Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, with outgoing DGP Praveen Sood in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

NIMHANS initiative blossoms this poll season

Sangeetha Kestur
BENGALURU

This election season, from campaigns to celebrations, flowers have been used in large quantities across parties. Although these flowers are often left to rot on streets or dumped in garbage bins, this year, proactive citizens have collected and donated some of them to the Green Skills initiative at NIMHANS.

For instance, Padmashree Balaram, a resident of Koramangala, said that she donated over over 100 kg of flowers in three days from MLA Ramalinga Reddy's house to the initiative.

The initiative at NIMHANS, in partnership with Craftizen Foundation, aims to empower those with intellectual disabilities and mental illnesses to earn a source of income and enhance their cognitive abilities.

The initiative sources natural materials like flowers, paper, and fabric, which is upcycled and recycled to make new products like Holi powder, rangoli powder, and art kits.

T. Sivakumar, Additional Professor, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, NIMHANS, said: "Initially in 2016, we started with Holi powder and as we received more positive responses, we expanded to making rangoli powder, art kits, and flodust (a combination of flower powder and paper powder)."

"Engaging in this activity keeps them (patients) distracted and it is a great way to introduce new sensory stimulation," says N.B. Maithreyi, a staff member at NIMHANS.

The products made by patients at NIMHANS are sold on the hospital's premises and to various corporate giants.

The products are made in a very elaborate manner. The makers first sort flowers of a certain colour, pick apart the petals, and then dry them.

They are then ground to a fine powder and processed into various products. Flowers like rose, marigold, and gerbera are sourced from wedding halls, temples, and donations by citizens.

The initiative sources natural materials which is upcycled and recycled to make new products. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Intermittent power supply today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be intermittent power supply on Tuesday in the Jayanagar sub-divisions.

According to a Bescom release, the following areas will be affected from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Brenton Road, Ashoknagar, Air Force Hospital, Domlur, Austin Town, Viveknagar, Victoria Layout, Museum Road.

Albert Street, King Street, Museum Cross Road, Lavelle Road, St. Marks Road, Y.G. Palya, Richmond Road, Vannerpet, M.G. Road, Hayes Road, Convent Road, Richmond Town, Nanjappa Circle, Richmond Park, will also be affected

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 23
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 08:45 SET 22:07

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 24
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 09:39 SET 22:55

THURSDAY, MAY. 25
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 10:31 SET 23:39

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	26
Mysuru	33	20
Bengaluru	32	21

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SALEM DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. SA/GSU/OT/12/2023 dt. 19.05.2023
For and the behalf of the President of India, the Chief Project Manager/Gati Shakti Unit/ Salem Division, Salem-636005, invites ONLINE tenders for the following works:

Item No	Name of work	Value (in ₹)	EMD (in ₹)
01	Developmental works in Udhagamandalam (UAM) Station of Salem division under "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme" (Phase-I)	5,22,71,699.17/-	4,11,400/-
02	Developmental works in Coonoor (ONR) Station of Salem division under "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme" (Phase-I)	4,96,39,491.59/-	3,96,200/-
Eligibility criteria for the above works		Any Civil Engineering work Except track work	

Completion Period (Months): 6
Closing date of tender at 11.00 hrs: 10.06.2023
Note: (i) It is the resonsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any changes.
For complete Details, please visit website at **www.ireps.gov.in**
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MADURAI DIVISION
The Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Madurai-625016 for and behalf of The President of India invites Online tenders in Two Packet System from reputed contractors for the following works as per tender notice given in Governmnet e-Marketing place (Gem) portal. The tenderer(s)/Contracor(s) to apply for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the Gem Portal and only online tenders wil be accepted.

Name of the Work: OBHS attention in Train No. 12635/12636, 12605/12606 & 16779/16780 at MDU Division for the period of three years

Sl No.	Gem Bid No.	Place of work	Value of the work (₹)	EMD (₹)	Tender closing date
1	GEM/2023/B/3467927 Dated: 19.05.2023	MDU, RMM, KKDI	1,88,56,204/- (including GST @18%)	2,44,300/-	14.00 Hrs on 09.06.2023

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modification uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at **http://www.gem.gov.in**
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PALGHAT DIVISION
The Senior Divisional Materials Manager (Stores Branch), Southern Railway, Palghat Division invites attention to this Office E-Tender for the supply of under mentioned Stores, for and on behalf of President of India.

E-Tender Number: 91/23/5378A with AMC condition as per tender

Sl No.	Description of Stores	Consignee
1	Hydraulic Rescue Device set complete (HRD) with its Concomitant accessories as per RDSO Specification no. MP-0.08.00.105 (Rev.-01) April 2015) & as per the conditions detailed in ANNEXURE-A & ANNEXURE-B.	CWS/C&W/ MAQ, SR (Karnataka)
2	Hydraulic Rescue Device set complete (HRD) with its Concomitant accessories as per RDSO Specification no. MP-0.08.00.105 (Rev.-01) April 2015) & as per the conditions detailed in ANNEXURE-A & ANNEXURE-B.	CWS/SRR, SR (Kerala)

Quantity: Sl. No. 1 & 2: 1 set (Each)
Due date: Sl. No. 1 & 2: 12-JUN-23
Tender closing and opening date and time: 12-JUN-23 14:30 hrs
For further details, please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in> E-Tender>stores>View Tenders.**
Please note that only online quotations are accepted and offers are to be digitally signed.
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PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public AND WHOMSOEVER concerned that, our client **Sri. Punith B,** Residing at No.16, 2nd Floor, P. Veerappa Road, Hanumanthanagar, Gavipuram Extention, Bengaluru - 560019, has **REVOKED/ CANCELLED** the **Registered General Power of Attorney dated 01/02/2023** executed by **Sri. Punith B,** in favour of **M/s. RIYOM INFRAA PVT LTD,** No. 42, Old No. 407, 8th B Main, Jayanagara, 4th Block, Bengaluru-560011, Represented by its **Directors T.S.SANKEERTH, RAGHAVENDRA N AND M.C.VIJAY KUMAR** in respect of below described Schedule property as per notice dated: 22/05/2023 through RPAD served upon said M/S RIYOM INFRAA PVT LTD, No. 42, Old No. 407, 8th B Main, Jayanagara, 4th Block, Bengaluru- 560011, Represented by its **Directors T.S.SANKEERTH, RAGHAVENDRA N. AND M.C.VIJAY KUMAR.**

SCHEDULE
All the piece and parcel of **Site No.4,** Khatha No.21/5, Sy No.21, Converted for Residential purpose vide Official Memorandum No.ALN/(S)SR/(KEN)/13/2012-13, dated 22/05/2012, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru, Situated at Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West;33-0 feet and North to South;40.0 feet, totally measuring 1320 Sq Feet., the property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Hemmigepura Ward No.198, and bounded on;
East By: Sy No.21, **West By:** Site No.3, **North By:** Road, **South By:** Sy No.17/1A2 and Site No.17/1A4.

Sd/- L SHANKARANARAYANA
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
New No.6, old No.182 Spurthi Nilaya, 6th Cross, 3rd Main SBM Colony, BSK 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560 050
Mob: 94481 46813 / 83103 68961

Sd/- GTH Associates & Advocates,
Govindaraj.D (9902880122)
Thippeswamy K.M (9964620606)
Krishnegowda. B(8123346878)
No.24, 1st Main Road,
Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients **Mrs. Lakshmi R** agreed to purchase of 'Schedule Property' from the owner **Mrs. Smt. G Sulochana Narayanaswami** who became owner of the said under Release deed property on 23.12.2021 registered as document No. KEN-1-07142/2021-22 of Book-I, CD No. KEND1443, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru executed by her children **Smt. Vidhya N & Mr. Vinay N** and earlier all of them inherited the same from original owner Late B V Srinivas, expired as per the Death Certificate dt 07.11.2017, during his life time he Purchase the same from the BEML Employees House Building Co-Op Soc. Ltd. under sale deed dt 24.01.1991, registered as document No. 5707/1990-91, Book-I, in the office Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore, due to in advertence some pages of the said Sale Deed are spoilt .
The said **Mrs. Lakshmi R** is intending for a loan transaction from Federal bank at Bangalore by creating charge. Hence this public notice. Any person/s, individuals, financial institutions or body corporate whosoever having any claims, interest, or charge, etc., in whatsoever manner over the schedule property herein are hereby called upon to lodge their claims or objections, if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned in person within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this general public notice, failing which my clients will presume that the schedule property herein is free from all sorts of encumbrance of whatsoever nature and proceed to complete the transactions.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing southern portion of **Site No. 553,** the BBMP Khatha No. 5100/5061/553/4968, measuring East to West 40, 0' Feet and North to South : 30'.0 Feet, totally measuring **1200 sq ft,** in 3rd stage BEML Layout formed by the BEML Employees House Building Co-operative Society limited, in Survey Nos. 77 to 90, 105 to 119/1, 5, 4, to 122, 147 to 165 and 273, situated at: **Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** bounded on:
East by : Road, West by : Site No. 554, North by : Remaining Northern portion of site no. 553 belongs to Sri. Kishore Setty K R and Smt. Maheshwari Kishore, South by : Road.

Mr. MASOOD ALI KHAN MECCI
ADVOCATE
Office at No.23-A, ground floor, HHS & HMS Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560 002
Mobile : 9845548279
email : makmecci@gmail.com

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS–TWO COVER–ITEMWAR TENDER – Short Term (E-Submission)

IFB No.	No.2,3,4,5 & 6 /F.O & M of CWSS 2023-26/DO-2 /CE/VLR/2023/ /Dt :19.05.2023
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, 1 East Cross Road, Gandhi Nagar, Katpadi, Vellore - 632 006.
Downloading Period	**23.05.2023 to 08.06.2023 upto 15.00 hours**
EMD Payable	Online Mode through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Pre Bid meeting	**31.05.2023 at 11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**08.06.2023 before 15.00** hours duly Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**09.06.2023 at 15.30** hours through E-Tender Portal

IFB No.	Name of work	Approximate value (incl. GST 18%) (Rs. in crore)	Bid Security (Rs. in lakhs)
Operation and maintenance of the following CWSS including repair, rectification works and supply of Chemicals for three years period from 2023- 24 to 2025-2026			
2	CWSS in 3 Districts Villupuram-3 Nos, Cuddalore -15 Nos & Kallakurichi -4 Nos Total- 22 Nos.	16.97	13.00
3	CWSS in Thiruvannamalai District 27 Nos.	21.93	17.00
4	CWSS in 2 Districts, Vellore- 5 Nos & Ranipet -6 Nos. Total - 11 Nos.	62.56	48.00
5	CWSS in 3 Districts Chengalpet-12 Nos, Kancheepuram-8 Nos & Thiruvallur-8 Nos. Total- 28 Nos.	11.47	9.00
6	CWSS in 2 Districts Krishnagiri -18 Nos & Dharmapuri -6 Nos. Total-24 Nos	18.81	15.00

DIPR/ 2693 /TENDER/2023 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Vellore-6

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM
Short Term (E-Submission)

IFB No.	02-05/F.O& M of CWSS / DO(T5)/ CE/ CBE/ 2023/ Dt : 19.05.2023
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathi Park Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Downloading Period	**23.05.2023 to 07.06.2023 upto 15.00 Hours**
Available WebSite	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
EMD Payable at	Online Mode through E-Tendering Portal.
Pre Bid meeting	**02.06.2023** at **11.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**07.06.2023** before **15.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**08.06.2023** at **15.30** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**

IFB No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Crore) including 18% GST	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
	Operation and maintenance of the following CWSS including repair, rectification works and supply of Chemicals for three years period from 2023-2024 to 2025-2026		
2.	5 Nos of CWSS under Maintenance Division, Salem in Salem District – Package - 1	71.75	71.75
3.	4 Nos of CWSS under Maintenance Division, Edappadi in Salem District - Package - 2	56.90	56.90
4.	10 Nos of CWSS under Maintenance Division, Namakkal in Namakkal District - Package - 3	36.60	36.60
5.	2 Nos of CWSS under RWS Division, Namakkal in Namakkal District - Package – 3a	1.32	1.32

DIPR/ 2685 /TENDER/2023 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Coimbatore.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM
Short Term (E-Submission)

IFB No.	06-09 /F.O& M of CWSS / SDO(T1)/ CE/ CBE/ 2023/ Dt.19.05.2023
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathi Park Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Downloading Period	**23.05.2023 to 07.06.2023 upto 15.00 Hours**
Available website	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
EMD Payable at	Online Mode through E-Tendering Portal.
Pre Bid meeting	**02.06.2023** at **11.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**07.06.2023** before **15.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**08.06.2023** at **16.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**

IFB No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Crore) including 18% GST	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
	Operation and maintenance of the following CWSS including repair, rectification works and supply of Chemicals for three years period from 2023-2024 to 2025-2026		
6.	2 Nos of CWSS under RWS Division, Ooty in Nilgiris District - Package -7	4.80	4.80
7.	5 Nos of CWSS under Maintenance Division (Siruvani) in Coimbatore and Tiruppur Districts - Package -8	24.35	24.35
8.	2 Nos of CWSS under Maintenance Division (Pillur) in Coimbatore and Tiruppur Districts - Package - 9	23.02	23.02
9.	5 Nos of CWSS under Sewerage Division, Pollachi in Coimbatore District - Package -10	16.17	16.17

DIPR/ 2687 /TENDER/2023 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Coimbatore.

The marine organism with a surprising wiring of neurons

Comb jellies have been at the centre of a heated debate over the identity of the first animal; even if they are the oldest animal lineage, biologists still don't know how their nervous systems evolved; their unique features are creating shockwaves in the scientific community

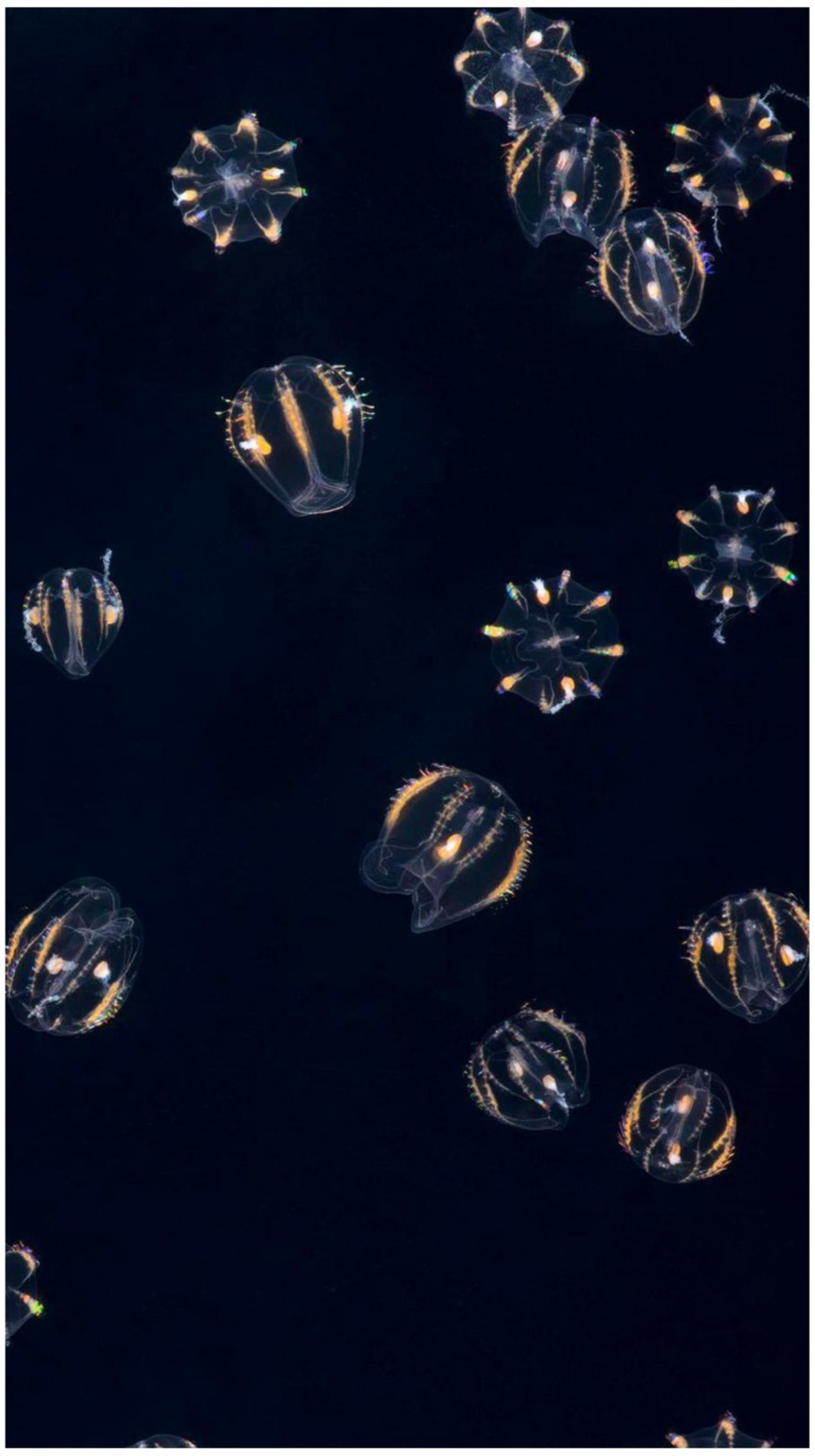
Rohini Subrahmanyam

A beautiful marine animal with a jelly-like body surrounded by iridescent combs. The most likely candidate for the earliest branched-off animal lineage. And now, an impossible nervous system. Comb jellies may be too small to even cause ripples in the water as they swim, but their unique features are creating shockwaves in the scientific community.

A recent study, published in *Science*, looked closely at the comb-jelly nervous system and found something unexpected in its nerve net.

The nerve net is a diffuse nervous system made up of interconnected neurons, most commonly found in simple marine animals like comb jellies and jellyfish.

The researchers found that instead of being connected by synapses - junctions between neurons in all other animals, including humans - nerve-net neurons are continuously connected by a single plasma membrane.



Radiant mystery: Ctenophores (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*) using illumination from above. ALEXANDRE JAN

What are comb jellies?

Comb jellies, or ctenophores, belong to phylum ctenophora, and are one of the oldest animal lineages with a defined nervous system. They are quite hard to culture in the lab, however, yet Pawel Burkhardt managed to do just the thing in his lab at the Michael Sars Centre at the University of Bergen, Norway.

"This was something that all came together, step by step. We were able to basically disentangle the nervous system," Dr. Burkhardt told *The Hindu*.

He had collaborated with Maike Kittelmann of the Oxford Brookes University in the U.K. previously for a study, published in *Current Biology* in 2021.

In this study, the researchers examined a single neuron in the nerve net using high resolution electron microscopy. They found that the neurites - the branches from the neuron that form synapses - were all interconnected by a single plasma membrane, a feature not seen in the neurons of other animals.

What did the study find?

For the new study, they wanted to see how a single nerve net neuron could make connections with other nerve net neurons. When they observed the microscopy images of the different nerve net neurons together, they were taken completely by surprise.

"We expected synapses," said Dr. Kittelmann. "We went in there to find the synapses between the nerve net neurons, but we just couldn't find them, because they aren't there."

The researchers conducted their experiments with ctenophores in the predatory cydippid stage, an earlier stage in the ctenophore life cycle when it is capable of reproducing. They used high-pressure freezing and fixing and electron microscopy to build a 3D view of all the neurons within the nervous system of ctenophores.

When they examined how some neurons outside the nerve net connected to others in the cydippid, they found synaptic connections. But the five neurons within the nerve net seemed to all be interconnected via a syncytial network, i.e. without any synapses.

Why ctenophores?

In the 1950s, the use of electron microscopy helped confirm neurobiologist Ramón y Cajal's hypothesis that neurons were separate cells connected via synapses. It put to rest a long debate about whether neuronal networks in most animals formed a continuous syncytium or were made up of discrete cells.

In an ironic twist, the new study again demonstrated the usefulness of more advanced microscopy techniques to show that in ctenophores, at least in the nerve net neurons, it's the opposite: it is a syncytium.

Ctenophores have already received a lot of attention, being at the centre of a heated debate over the identity of the first animal. Whole-genome sequencing studies of ctenophores, published in 2013 in *Science* and 2014 in *Nature*, added evidence to the theory that ctenophores were the earliest branch of the animal kingdom and form a sister group to all other animals.

The mystery

But even if ctenophores constitute the oldest animal lineage, biologists are still unclear as to how their nervous system evolved. Based on his findings in the 2014 *Nature* paper, Leonid Moroz of the University of Florida proposed a controversial theory. He said that the nervous system could have evolved twice, once in ctenophores and once in other animals.

His paper and another study that followed pointed to ctenophores having a unique nervous system.

> Leonid Moroz of the University of Florida proposed a controversial theory. He said that the nervous system could have evolved twice, once in ctenophores and once in other animals

The ctenophore genome didn't show classical neurotransmitter pathways present in other animals nor did ctenophore neurons express the common genes associated with other animal neurons.

"Our paper is not proof for or against the independent evolution of the ctenophore nervous system," Dr. Burkhardt said. "However, given that ctenophores are very early branching animals and that the nerve-net architecture of ctenophores is unique, it is possible that the nerve net evolved independently."

According to him, the fact that ctenophores use cilia, and not muscles, to move could also be a reason why they would possibly evolve a different signal conduction system. "It is a fantastic finding that nerve nets can also be syncytial," said Detlev Arendt, a researcher at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory who studies the evolution of nervous systems. "We have to understand how such a nerve net operates as compared to other nerve nets that are connected with synapses or gap junctions."

What are the questions?

Dr. Burkhardt and Dr. Kittelmann are keen to study the nerve net neurons as the ctenophores develop, to see if adult ctenophores retain the syncytial nerve net or if they develop synapses.

For Dr. Moroz, the results are more evidence for the ctenophore nervous system's unique nature and signs that it could have evolved independently. More importantly, he stressed the importance of such studies in a broader context - of how unique animal systems like the ctenophore can help us understand how the nervous system has evolved to work so perfectly, even in humans.

"Nature has offered to us alternate unique examples of how to get the same outcome in different ways," Dr. Moroz said. "The shortcut to understand the fundamentals of neuronal function and treat a variety of disorders will come from comparative analyses."

There is a lot more to do to further understand the functional and evolutionary significance of the syncytial nerve net neurons in ctenophores. This study provides an important anchor for such research into nervous system evolution in animals, research which Dr. Moroz firmly believes is essential to understand the principles of brain function.

"To understand our brain, we have to understand alternative strategies," he said. "To understand our brain, we have to study small creatures in the sea."

Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist.

A still from the documentary *My Octopus Teacher*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Advocates for octopuses try to break them out of Spanish detention

Associated Press
Reuters

Animal rights activists gathered on Sunday in Madrid to protest plans for an octopus farm in Spain, saying there are no laws in the country and the European Union to guarantee the welfare of the animals in captivity.

The proposed farm, which aims to breed octopuses on a large scale in captivity, is scheduled to be built next year in the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, at a cost of $74 million.

Recently, the global demand for the cephalopod has expanded, with the U.S. recording a 23% increase in imports and China, a 73% surge between 2016 and 2018, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation

A few dozen people showed up to express their concerns regarding a project that plans to confine three million octopuses in pools, despite these creatures being solitary predators in the wild.

Jaime Posada, a spokesperson for the protest called by various animal welfare organisations, said the octopus would "attempt to escape due to their high intelligence and adeptness".

Octopuses grown in captivity will behave differently from those in the wild, said Nova Pescanova, the seafood company promoting this farm.

Since 2018, the company has run a pilot project in a research facility in northern Spain, where it has successfully bred five captivity-born octopus generations.

"It is not possible to grow any [animal] species in the European Union without respecting their welfare conditions. It is the standard, and our group does nothing but comply with guidelines and legislations," said Roberto Romero, the multinational company's aquaculture director.

Since the demand for octopus has risen, farming them is being regarded as a first step to ensure sustainable food production.

Octopus is a staple in the Mediterranean diet, particularly in Spain and Italy, although both of them import most of the octopus they consume.

Recently, the global demand for the cephalopod has expanded, with the U.S. recording a 23% increase in imports and China, a 73% surge between 2016 and 2018, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Demand is also surging in South Korea and Japan, and natural fishing grounds are feeling the strain.

Since the 2020 documentary *My Octopus Teacher* captured the public imagination with its tale of a filmmaker's friendship with an octopus, concern for their well-being has grown.

Last year, researchers at the London School of Economics reviewed 300 studies and found that octopus were sentient beings capable of experiencing distress and happiness, and that high-welfare farming was impossible.

Traditional octopus fishers are also wary of the venture, worried it could push down prices and undermine their reputation for quality produce.

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The abyssal zone: Where the light does not go

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The layer below the abyssal zone is called the _____ zone. It lies within trenches and stretches 6-11 km below sea level. It is named for the Greek god of the underworld. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

In the abyssal zone, at 4-6 km below sea level, the only _____ comes from the zones above and from deep polar ice that has melted. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

Cusk eels belong to the genus *Brotula*. But in 1970, a cusk eel was found off the coast of Puerto Rico and was classified in the genus *Abyssobrotula*. A second species of *Abyssobrotula* cusk eel was found in 2016. What's the distinction of the 1970 cusk eel?

QUESTION 4

One inhabitant of the abyssal zone is the _____. Its name comes from its similarity to a character in a famous 1941 Disney film. Its genus is *Grimpoteuthis.* Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

The formidable environs of the abyssal zone have prevented scientists from further studying abyssal _____: the propensity for invertebrate organisms to grow to be much larger than their relatives in shallower waters. Fill in the blanks.

Visual question: The photo shows three men inside a vessel built by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, to carry a small crew to 5 km below sea level. Name the submersible..R Ravindran/The Hindu

Answers to May 18 quiz:
1. Bird flying at 6.4 km above sea level – **Ans: Bar-headed goose**
2. Rising hot-air that birds use to stay buoyant – **Ans: Thermal columns**
3. Some birds may use a protein to sense this – **Ans: Earth's magnetic field**
4. When birds overshoot their destination – **Ans**: **Vagrancy**
5. Spring migration of Asian houbaras is adaptation to this – **Ans: Climate change**

Visual: Storks that are shot while migrating in Africa and return to Europe with the arrow – **Ans: Pfeilstorch**

First contact: Anjali Srivastava | Kartikagouda Kopparad | Ravi Ranjan | Siva Shakthi A.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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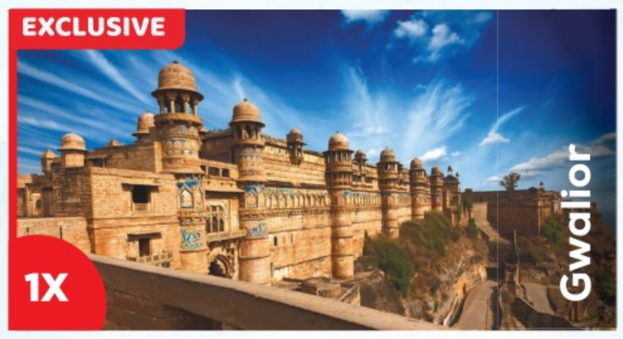

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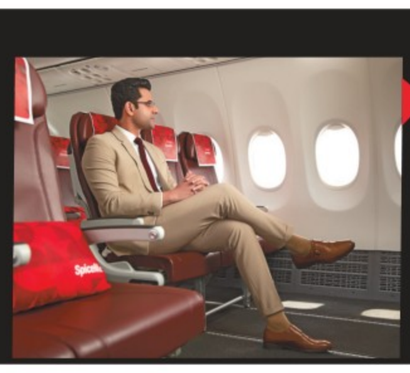

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The deaths due to extreme weather in India in last 50 years

1.38 In lakh. Extreme weather events caused 573 disasters in India between 1970 and 2021, according to the World Meteorological Department. More than two million deaths and $4.3 trillion in losses were recorded in this period. PTI

The amount spent on Rajya Sabha MPs in the last two years

200 In crore. The expense of Rajya Sabha MPs in 2021-23 include ₹28.5 crore on domestic and ₹1.28 crore on international travel, with ₹63 crore spent on their travel alone, according to an RTI reply. Salaries amounted to ₹57.6 crore. PTI

The attendance on the first day of the CUET-UG 2023

77 In percentage. The second edition of the Common University Entrance Test began on Sunday, without any technical glitches unlike the debut edition, even as the exam was delayed at a few centres, according to the National Testing Agency. PTI

The European Union slaps Meta with record privacy fine

1.3 In $ billion. The EU ordered the technology company to stop transferring user data across the Atlantic. The penalty is the biggest one which has been issued since the EU's strict data privacy regime took effect five years ago. AP

The number of schools in South Africa that still use pit toilets

3,398 schools. The South African government had promised to replace all pit toilets at schools by March 31, 2023. However, the deadline has been extended to 2025. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The tussle over 'services' in Delhi

What is the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023? How is it going to affect the powers of the elected State government of Delhi? Does it restore the powers of the Lieutenant Governor? What was the May 11 judgment by the Supreme Court?

EXPLAINER

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The story so far:

A Constitution Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on May 11 held that the Delhi government can make laws and administer civil services in the national capital. The court limited the role of the Lieutenant Governor (LG), an arm of the Centre, over bureaucrats in the capital to three specific areas – public order, police and land. The judgment intended to strike a balance between the national interests of the Centre in the capital and the authority of an elected Delhi government to legislate and administer meaningfully through "professional" civil service officers deputed to its departments. However, on May 19, the Centre turned the tables on the judgment. The President promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 to make a fresh claim of power over the services in the capital. The stated aim of the Ordinance is to "provide for a comprehensive scheme of administration of services" which "balances the local and domestic interests of the people of Delhi with the democratic will of the entire nation reflected through the President of India".

What does the Ordinance say?

The government has used the Ordinance route to indirectly return to its original position which it had taken in May 21, 2015 through a Home Ministry notification. The notification, which formed the bone of contention between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the Centre for the past eight years, gave the Lieutenant Governor (LG) power over the services. It required the LG to consult the Chief Minister only at his "discretion". The notification had excluded Entry 41 (services) of the State List from the scope of powers of the Delhi government.

The Ordinance forms a "permanent" National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA) with the Chief Minister as chairperson, and the Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary as Member and Member Secretary, respectively. The NCCSA exercises authority over civil service officers working in all Delhi government departments except those in public order, police and land. It would decide transfers, postings, prosecution sanctions, disciplinary proceedings, vigilance issues, etc, of civil service officers deputed to Delhi government departments by majority of votes of the members present and voting. The Lieutenant Governor's decision, in case of a difference of opinion, would be final.

This throws open a scenario in which bureaucrats in the NCCSA could possibly veto the Chief Minister. The Ordinance explains that the Chief Secretary would represent "the will of the officers of GNCTD" (Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi).

The Supreme Court had envisaged a "neutral civil service" carrying out the day-to-day decisions of the Council of Ministers. The NCCSA attempts to bring civil service officers out of the administrative control of the elected Ministers, who embody the will of the people, and transform them into a power lobby. The NCCSA negates the intrinsic link between government accountability and the principle of collective responsibility highlighted in the judgment. The Ordinance, by creating the NCCSA, skirts the emphasis laid down in the judgment on the "triple chain of command" in the governance of Delhi. The court had held that the civil services were accountable to the Ministers of the elected government, under whom they function. The Ministers were in turn accountable to the legislature, and the legislature ultimately to the people of Delhi. The chain of command was forged by the Supreme Court to ensure democratic accountability.

Constant tiff: The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena being greeted by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in 2022. FILE PHOTO

The Ordinance also does not heed the President's own Transaction of Business Rules of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 1993. The Supreme Court had held in 2018 that "a significant aspect of the Rules is that on matters which fall within the ambit of the executive functions of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD), decision-making is by the government comprising the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at its head". This view was reinforced on May 11, 2023.

The court had also dismissed the K. Balakrishnan Committee's specific recommendation that the "services" should not be included within the legislative and executive ambit of the NCTD. The court held that the committee report was not relevant as it preceded the insertion of Article 239AA – the provision that deals with the governance structure of Delhi, in the 69th Constitution Amendment, 1991.

Does the Ordinance go against the Supreme Court judgment?

The Ordinance is based on the argument that the Supreme Court has itself acknowledged the superior authority of Parliament to make laws for the national capital. A review petition filed by the Centre in the Supreme Court claimed that Delhi is not a "full-fledged State" but only a Union Territory which is an extension of the Union. The Parliament is Delhi's true legislature, the Centre has argued. However, the May 11 judgment addresses this contention by acknowledging that though Delhi is not a full-fledged State, its Legislative Assembly is constitutionally entrusted with the power to legislate upon the subjects in the State List and Concurrent List.

The unanimous judgment held that though Delhi is not a State under the First Schedule to the Constitution, it is conferred with power to legislate upon subjects "to give effect to the aspirations of the people of NCTD". It has a democratically elected government which is accountable to the people of the NCTD. Under the constitutional scheme envisaged in Article 239AA(3), NCTD was given legislative power which though limited, in many aspects is similar to States. In that sense, with the addition of Article 239AA, the Constitution created an "asymmetric federal model" with the Union of India at the centre, and the NCTD at the regional level.

The May 11 judgment had also referred to how the majority in a 2018 Constitution Bench judgment had held that while NCTD could not be accorded the status of a State, the concept of federalism would still be applicable to NCTD.

The court had held that the executive power of the Delhi government was "coextensive" with its legislative power. That is, the executive arm of the government covers all the subjects, including services, except public order, police and land, for which the legislative arm can make laws.

What does the Ordinance and the judgment say about the LG's powers?

The Ordinance has put the LG back in the driver's seat by giving him the power to take a final call on any decision taken by the NCCSA regarding services. This is despite the fact that the LG's powers were curtailed way back in 2018 by another Constitution Bench judgment.

On May 11, the court had agreed with its conclusions in 2018 that the LG was bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 239AA(4) while exercising executive powers in relation to matters falling within the legislative domain of the legislative assembly of NCTD.

The court had held that even the "limited discretionary power" afforded to the LG "ought to be exercised in a careful manner in rare circumstances such as on matters of national interest and finance. The Lieutenant Governor could not refer every matter to the President".

What lies ahead?

An Ordinance is not beyond judicial review of the apex court. If the 2023 Ordinance is challenged separately, the Union would have to prove the "extraordinary or emergent situation" which necessitated it to promulgate an Ordinance merely days after a Constitution Bench settled the law.

A Constitution Bench in *DC Wadhwa versus State of Bihar* had held that the power of the Executive to promulgate an Ordinance should not be "perverted to serve political ends".

THE GIST

A Constitution Bench on May 11 held that the Delhi government can make laws and administer civil services in the national capital. However, on May 19, the Centre turned the tables on the judgment. The President promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 to make a fresh claim of power over the services in the capital.

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The Ordinance is based on the argument that the Supreme Court has itself acknowledged the superior authority of Parliament to make laws for the national capital.

State govt. seeks long-term plan to prevent flooding

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar

The State government has sought a long-term plan for rain relief in Bengaluru, according to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Shivakumar told presspersons in Bengaluru on Monday that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and himself had held a couple of rounds of meetings with the authorities concerned on measures to be taken with respect to preventing rain havoc.

"We have sought a long-term plan from the authorities concerned on preventing flooding at underpasses and other areas. In addition to this, we have also directed them to take immediate measures to prevent such flooding," he said.

Bommai blames negligence by BBMP for rain havoc; urges CM to take precautionary measures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday blamed the negligence of BBMP officials for the rain havoc that claimed the life of a woman in Bengaluru on Sunday. "The BBMP officials had failed to take up precautionary measures despite the warning by the India Meteorological Department about heavy rain. It was painful that a woman lost her life though the rains lashed only for a few hours," he told presspersons.

Pointing out that the Weather Department has predicted rains for the next five days, he urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take immediate precautionary measures.

CBSE exam: Schools part of THiS do well

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

Schools that are part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme achieved excellent results in the CBSE examination.

In Delhi Public School, Bangalore North, 379 students appeared and 312 secured distinction in Class XII. Vedika Sree Hittinamath scored 492 marks in Humanities to emerge topper. In Class X, the school achieved 100% pass, with 504 of 673 students securing distinction. Aadi Halbhavi by scoring 495 marks emerged topper.

In the first batch of SJR Public School, Rajajinagar, all 62 students passed, with 20 securing distinction. Tarun G. with 92% emerged topper.

In Army Public School, PRTC, 131 students appeared and 19 secured distinction, and 63 passed with first class in Class X. The school achieved 100% pass since 2012. Harshal Sopan Pillore and Nischaya Singh, with 95.5%, emerged toppers.

In Class XII, 112 students appeared and 47 secured distinctions. The school achieved 100% pass since 2014. Veshnavi (479 marks) and Shristy M. (476 marks), and Lucky Sharma (453 marks) were toppers.

In KLE Society's School, Nagarabhavi, 156 students appeared and 105 secured distinction. The school achieved 100% pass for 15 years. Varshini Praveen with 97.6% emerged topper. Sri Kumaran Children's Academy, Doddakallasandra, achieved 100% pass for seven years. In all, 106 students appeared and 37 secured 90% and above marks. Tanay Pradeep with 97.8% emerged topper.

In Shri Ram Global School, Whitefield, 203 students appeared and 87 secured distinction in Class XII. The school achieved 100% pass for five years. Neel Tushar Narlawar and Tanish Singh Khurana with 487 marks stood first.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests (Forest Department), BBMP Head Office, Ground floor, Annes-3 building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560 002

No.: DCF/BBMP/TCM/01/2023-24 **Date: 22.05.2023**

INVITATION OF RATE QUOTATION FOR THE TREE CANOPY MANAGEMENT IN BBMP LIMITS

Deputy Conservator of Forest (Forest department), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites sealed competitive rate quotation for the **Tree Canopy Management (Essential & Emergency Work), in BBMP limits of all the Eight Zones (East, West, South, Mahadevapura, Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, R.R.Nagara, Bommanahalli Zone).** The eligible bidder should quote the rate per Team in the quotation, the rated quoted per team should include all the cost associated for the Tree Canopy Management as mentioned below and all other taxes and GST. The Tree Canopy Management should be work according to DCF order up to next dated. The eligible bidder should conduct Tree Canopy Management as follows:

- Note BBMP is not responsible for any Damages of public property/ labours
- The days of work will be assignment by the concerned competent authority the wages/ payment will be made subject to those working days only.
- Conditions applied.

Quotation for a team, _____ Zone

Sl. No./ Item No.	Item of Works	Quoted rate / per day / per team
1	One Skilled Supervisor (1 Supervisor) (Per Day) (and 1 supervisor per Day or Night) which includes VDA ESI and PF (Employer contribution BBMP) and Employee Contribution ESI and PF & GST (including loading and unloading)	
2	Engaging skilled Laborers for cut and remove the trees / Branches (per team. (3 skilled labours) Day or Night) which includes VDA ESI and PF (Employer contribution BBMP) and Employee Contribution ESI and PF & GST (including loading and unloading)	
3	Engaging Semi skilled Laborers for cut and remove the trees / branches (4 Semi skilled laborers) (per Day & Night) which includes VDA ESI and PF (Employer contribution BBMP) and Employee Contribution ESI and PF & GST (including loading and unloading)	
4	Diesel / Petrol charges for Vehicle and petrol Machinery.	
5	Hiring Vehicle charges for Swaraz LCV/MCV (Low Capacity Vehicle Medium Capacity Vehicle).	
6	Crane, JCB, Ladder Vehicle (per hour)	
7	Hiring Material charges like Electrical/Petrol Machinery and other Chainpully, Pikase, Guddali, Cross cut saw, Hammer & ropes wooden Laders, reflecting Jacket or Uniform, helmets, Torch, Head Torch, Rainy Shoes & first aid kit etc.	

Following is the Events of Quotation Process: (1) Last date and time for submitting quotations to the office of DCF Forest Department, BBMP: **24.05.2023** upto **3:30 p.m. (2)** Address for Communications: **Office of DCF, Forest, BBMP, Room Number 4 & 5, Annex 3 Building, Ground Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. Contact Number: 9480683047, Email: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com**

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer,

(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi) Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri

Telephone No.08473-253311 e-mail:acyadgir@gmail.com

No.REV/LAQ/NH/01/2023-24/07 Dated:18.05.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways, Central Government vide Notification Dated: 25.04.2023 declared the intention to acquire the land for building of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 22.600 to Km. 25.170 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Kalaburagi in the state of karnataka. The same is here with Published for Public Notice as per the sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act.

It is also informed not to carry out Purchase or Sale, Amortization, Any other documentation and Any Development works in respect of Lands notified under the Schedule of the afore said notification.

Sd/- (Shalam Hussain, KAS)
Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi),
Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
NewDelhi,the25th April,2022

S.O. 1892(E).-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (here in after referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that forthe public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening / four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch ofland from Km. 22.600 to Km. 25.170 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Kalaburagi in the state of Karnataka, here by declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of thisnotification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Assistant Commissioner Yadgirinwriting and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity ofbeing heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, andmay, after hearing all such objections and after makingsuch further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow theobjections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority undersub -section(2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land fromKm. 22.600 to Km. 25.170 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir Section) of the National Highway No. 150 in the state of Karnataka

State:KARNATAKA **District: Kalaburagi**

S. No.	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk:Shahabad					
Village: Bhankuru					
1	203	Private	Dry	0.1781(Hectare)	0.1781
2	204	Private	Dry	0.6789(Hectare)	0.6789
3	251	Private	Dry	0.2338(Hectare)	0.2338
4	262	Private	NA/Dry	0.0890(Hectare)	0.0890
5	263	Private	NA/Dry	0.1670(Hectare)	0.1670
6	264	Private	NA/Dry	0.5898(Hectare)	0.5898
Village: Malgatti					
1	30	Private	NA/ Dry	0.6789(Hectare)	0.6789
2	31	Private	Dry	0.0708(Hectare)	0.0708
			Total	**2.6863 (Hectare)**	**2.6863**

[F.No.RW/NH/1207/09/2021-22/KNT Zone-III-I/3A]

DIP/Yadagiri/15/MCA/2022-23

Sd/- ABHAY JAIN, Dy.Secy.

HOSUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Infrastructure and Amenities Fund 2022-23
Tender Notice
Form of contract: Item rate (Two cover system)

Bids are invited in Two cover system for the following below Works in Online Hosur City Municipal Corporation.

S. No.	Name of Work	Value put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of completion
1	Construction of New Bus Stand in Sf No:46/1-46/2 at Moranapalli Village in Hosur City Municipal Corporation	3000.00	2 Years

2. The bid documents will be available from 24.05.2023. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website https://tntenders.gov.in at free of cost.
3. Bid documents can be downloaded upto 3.00 PM on 28.06.2023. Online submission of tender is only accepted.
4. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the estimate value
5. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from the office of the Hosur City Municipal Corporation on all working days during office hours and Email address commr.hosur@gmail.com
6. Important dates

1	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	12.06.2023 at 11.00 AM
2	Last date and time for downloading bid documents	28.06.2023 at 03.00 PM
3	Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission	28.06.2023 at 03.00 PM
4	Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid	28.06.2023 at 03.30 PM

7. In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
8. Other details can be seen in the bid documents and E mail commr.hosur@gmail.com

DIPR/ 2684 /TENDER/2023 Commissioner, Hosur City Municipal Corporation

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ತಾ:ಹುಣಸಗಿ

KBJNL/DDN/PB/AWP-2023-24/ 194 Dated:- 22.05.2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ/ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಅಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ. **193** ದಿನಾಂಕ **22-05-2023** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **Indent No. 24278** Call-2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ Single **E-Document System** ನ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, **Qualification criteria** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ:**23.05.2023** ರಿಂದ **30.05.2023** ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ:**30.05.2023** ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
3)	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)	ದಿ: **31.05.2023** ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
(ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಪ್ರಕಾಶ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RS Sarannya Raj, spouse of Prajith Kumar VR resident of SP Sadanam, Naruvamoodu (PO), Trivandrum (Dist), Kerala PIN–695528 have changed my name from RS Sarannya Raj to Sarannya Raj RS vide affidavit dated 19–05–2023 before AR Muneer Ahmed Reg No–4932 Bengaluru Metropolitan Area (IN–KA65887852379768V)

I, SUDA Bhovi spouse of No 1158877X Rank Ex Late Hony Hb/Sub Name: Suba Bhovi have changed my name from Suda Bhovi to Shashikala Subha Bhovi vide affidavit dated 12/05/2023 sworn before notary Vanajakshi R, Bangalore.

I YASHODA Gulecha, Residing at # 6/3, Shree Apartments, Flat No. 302, 3rd Floor, Krishna Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Do solemnly affirm that I was previously called Yashoda, have changed my name to Yashoda Gulecha Affidavit Dt. 20.5.2023 sworn before notary L. Shankaranarayana, Bengaluru-560050, Reg. No. 6312.

I, JADHAV Sonal Sagar, spouse of Jadhav Sagar Sarjerao resident of SMQ No.18/12, Akash Vihar Camp, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my name from Jadhav Sonal Sagar to Sonal Sagar Jadhav vide affidavit dated 09 May 2023 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

UPSC - IAS
ECONOMICS
(OPTIONAL)
Ravindra N. Jha
BATCH - 1 01st JUNE, 2023
BATCH - 2 20th JUNE, 2023
ADMISSION OPEN
TEST SERIES 11th JUNE, 2023
ONLINE / OFFLINE
BLISS POINT STUDIES
57/17, 1ST FLOOR NEAR HDFC BANK OLD RAJENDER NAGAR, DELHI-110060
9811343411, 9811343464, 9811343938, 011-45076221

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANSI YADAV R/at 9, ITC Colony, Bang-05 have changed from father's name from DINESH YADAV to DINESH KUMAR YADAV for all future purposes by affidavit 22-05-2023, Notary Udaykumar.K

I Chaitra P Menon alias Chaitra A Chachadi alias Chaitra Anand Chachadi D/o Anand Prahlad Chachadi , W/o Parthasarathy P Menon, residing at #150, A G S Layout, New B E L Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560094, have changed my name to Chaitra Menon for all purposes in future

LEGAL NOTICE

In the court of the I[st] Addl. Junior civil Judge: Kurnool.
O.S.No. 67/2021
Smt. A padmavathi .....Plaintiff.
A.Balappa & others .....Defendants.
Suit Summons to Defendent No. 2.

(2)A. vijaya lakshmi, w/o Raju Patil, R/o. D-No. 472. patil Galli/ Anand Galli, Khanapur Road, machhe post, Belgavi Tq & Dist. Pin-590014. ph No: 8867073077

Where The Plaintiff filed The above Suit against The defendants for partician of 1/5th share and devide the Same Through court commissioner and for cast. you Defendent No. 2 are here by directed to appear before the court on 20-06-2023. and to file your objections if any. Otherwise you will deamed set Ex-parte.

Schedule: The Residential property bearing Door Nos 18/44/J and 18/44/J/1 (consisting of Ground floor and first floor) Situated at Nehru Road. Kurnool, which is within the limits of municipal corporation, Kurnool and also with in Juridiction. of the Registration District of Kurnool and Sub Registration office of Kurnool.

By order of the court.

M.R. KRISHNA. S. PAPANNA.
Advocates for plaintiff, Kurnool (A.P)

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY 61 ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-62)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 423 OF 2021
Hg: 23/06/2023

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 4/10, 1st Floor Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, And represented by its POA Holder and collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G S/o Gurumallappa, Age: 45 Years ...PLAINTIFF
And :
Mr SYED MOHAMMED BILAL ...DEFENDANT

To,
Defendant:
Mr. SYED MOHAMMED BILAL aged about 28 years,
Son of Naseemuddin Syed
R/at. Flat C202 No. 44, 14th, B Cross Sarakki, J.P Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore- 560078.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 and 2 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.5,31,501/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred and One Only) as on 15-03-2018 together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on **23-06-2023** at **11:00 am** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this **08th** day of **May, 2023**

By order of the Court,
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. Anees Ahamed,
B.M Kushalappa, Advocates,
No.4, (10/2), west park road,
Kumar park east,
Bangalore - 560001.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR

Sijua, Post: Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar - 751 019

VACANCY NOTICE

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, intends to engage two **Perfusion Technicians** on Contractual Basis for 11 months initially. The terms and conditions of engagement and the procedure for appearing for the Walk-in Skill Test may be seen at **https://aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in/.** The date of **Walk-In skill test is 26.05.2023.**

Sd/-
Administrative Officer
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

(Water Resources Department)
Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM)

1st Floor, KSFC Bhavan, #1/1, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-52.

No. ACIWRM/CE/MP/2023-24/01 - CALL-3 **Date: 20/05/2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tender Number : **WRD/2023-24/SE0001**(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Government of Karnataka, Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM) under Water Resources Department, invites Tender for **"Supply of Manpower Personnel of Different Category to ACIWRM, Bengaluru".** through outsource in Two cover system from eligible Tenderer/Agency/Firm. For more details, visit e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The details are also available on **https://www.waterresources.karnataka.gov.in and https://aciwrm.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarification can be sought at the following mail ID **registrar@aciwrm.org**

Sd/- Registrar/Chief Engineer
ACIWRM, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO93/23-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform and notified the General Public that, my client Smt.G.N.Satheshwri D/o Naganagowda. G.N. residing at, No.153/8, Near BES School, Vinayk Nagar, Hebabagodi Bommasandra Industrial Estate, Bangalore - 560099, represents that the bag, which was containing originals of 1). Sale Deed, dated: 04.03.2002, registered on 05.03.2002 as Document No.7823/2001-02 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.9, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal with respect to Site No.94 measuring 1200 SqFt., 2). Sale Deed, dated:16.05.2012, registered as Document No.JGN-1-1298-2012-13 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.JGND262, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi(Jigani), with respect to Site No.94 measuring 1200 SqFt is Lost/misplaced. Further, a Lost Report dated: 16.05.2023 vide No. Lost Report No.0564330/2023 and 0564293/2023 is lodged with Bangalore City Police and obtained computer generated acknowledgment under Serial No.564293 and 564330. The finder/s is/are hereby requested to return the aforesaid original document if found to the undersigned forthwith and of any person found dealing with the aforesaid original document would be dealt in accordance with Law.

ROOPA SHETTY, Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor,
27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1,
Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 080-22583563,9902026199;
Email: info@lexsitus.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mr.K.Saravanan S/o **Mr.A.Krishnan** would like to inform the general public that i have misplaced **my Original Sale Deed** Document No. Identification No.: 14865/06.06.2012, registered at Sub Registrar Denkanikottai, Property bearing In Krishnagiri Registration District, Denkanikottai Sub Registration District, Hosur Taluk, Mugalur Village, **Sy No.433/3C Dry Ext. Hec. 0.51.0 or 1.26 Acres, Asst Rs.0.42 In this Land Hect. 0.12.0 In acres 0.30 Cents Land.**

In case any one finds the document, the same may be returned to the under signed.

K.Saravanan
402, Mitta Platinum
3rd Main,BTM
Dollars Layout, Bangalore
Mobile.9341745559

ABSTRACT

Do sons contribute more toward elderly care?

By bringing together gender and intergenerational dynamics, the authors of this paper analyse "the relative contributions of sons and daughters to the well-being of their parents"

G. Sampath

Srinivasan, Sharada, S. Irudaya Rajan, Aswini Nanda, and Arjun Bedi (2023). 'Married Daughters' Contributions to Elderly Parents' Well-Being: A Review and Evidence from Haryana, India. S.I. Rajan (ed) Handbook of Aging, Health and Public Policy.

GETTY IMAGES

By 2050, India's elderly population will touch 319 million – three times the number identified by the 2011 Census. The number of people over the age of 60 is projected to increase from 8.6% of the population (2011 Census) to 20% by 2050. At the same time, the overwhelming majority of India's elderly are not covered, or covered adequately, by pension and social welfare. Therefore, the burden often falls on children to take care of their parents. In this context, old age support is one of the main factors driving the preference for a son. And our society is known to prefer sons, to the extent of resorting to illegal sex selective abortion.

In this paper, which brings together gender and intergenerational dynamics in conjunction with expectations of children, the authors analyse "the relative contributions of sons and daughters to the well-being of their parents, especially in the absence of sons." It has two segments: a review of the existing research on this subject, and a field-work based study conducted in Haryana, a State known for relatively low women's status, high son preference, and a large daughter deficit. In the process, the authors draw attention to the contributions that married daughters make to their natal families – an aspect that tends to become invisibilised in a patrilocal culture (a residence pattern where a woman shifts to her husband's home or community after marriage).

Significantly, the analysis is embedded in a political economy framework, which holds that people have children not only out of love or for emotional reasons but also because "they invest in children as a way of guaranteeing their future, both in terms of the continuity of lineage and their own care once they become old." In fact, the review of existing literature shows this to be the case in different countries and cultures, "especially in a context of poor economic development and/or in the absence of universal pension or social welfare."

Why the preference?

In the West, the welfare of the elderly is guaranteed through relatively well-funded pension and social security systems. But in India, which has the world's second largest population of people over the age of 60 and where over 90% of the workforce is in the unorganised sector, pensions are limited to a tiny minority employed in the public sector, and to a lesser extent, in the private sector. In other words, "economic and social policies to ensure the welfare of the elderly in India are limited" in a context where "poverty incidence is higher among the elderly, especially older women," leading to greater economic dependency. They thus end up relying on family and their own labour to take care of themselves. This is where a son becomes "preferable" over a daughter. "While a son contributes economically even after marriage, it is by bringing a daughter-in-law that he ensures the care of his parents especially when they grow old."

As a result, "son preference reinforces lower status of women through sex selection as well as discrimination against surviving daughters." Also, parents with sons, through the practice of arranged marriage, tend to select "submissive daughters-in-law to ensure old age support", which again affects gender equality. The flip side of this practice is that "since a (married) daughter is not expected to care for her natal family, not only is she valued less but it is likely that her contributions are invisibilised." Existing research also suggests that "sons may not always care for their parents out of a sense of duty but may do so to derive benefits from providing support, for example, a higher inheritance or elderly parents taking care of grandchildren."

A key study referenced in the paper is the Korean success story in reversing sex ratio imbalance, which suggests that an effective strategy to curb "daughter elimination" – rampant in States like Haryana – is "publicly financed policies to ensure financial support and health care for the elderly" which can reduce their dependence on sons.

The study

Coming to India, as per a 2013 country-wide survey, 85% of elderly co-reside with their children. More elderly women than men live alone. The same study also found that "expectations about old age are extremely oriented to sons with 80% of young parents expecting to be supported by sons when they get old." According to a 2012 UNFPA study covering seven States, "nearly 50% of the elderly live in joint families with their spouses, children and grandchildren" and there was a "strong preference to live with sons, while preference for living with daughters of being supported by them was low." Also, for the most part, studies on elderly care in India do not examine whether and how married daughters support their parents, or what is the care arrangement in daughter-only families. These are important questions, and the paper offers four reasons why.

First, elderly care is central to the issue of daughter discrimination; secondly, as everyone assumes parents will live with their sons and that daughters are not expected to contribute, this has acquired the status of what is 'normal'. As a result, even when daughters contribute, survey respondents indicate that it is sons who support them. Third, given that the married daughter's income is likely to be pooled with the husband's, "daughters' support to parents may be limited to emotional and social". Lastly, when married daughters do support their parents financially – which they may do with or without the knowledge of their husbands – "their parents may not reveal such support because of fear of social censure, which in turn perpetuates the discourse that married daughters do not support their parents financially."

The second part of this paper seeks to address this gap in existing literature by studying care patterns among elderly parents residing in Haryana, a State with one of the lowest 0-6 sex ratios in India – it was 834 as per the 2011 Census, as against India's 919, and the expected ratio of 952 girls per 1,000 boys. Out of the State's 21 districts, the authors focussed on four that had the highest proportion of the elderly (60 and above years). A total of 684 elderly households located in 56 villages were surveyed.

Do daughters contribute?

The survey compared expectations (of support) versus experiences. While half the households expected that sons would take care of them in their old age, only 15% expected financial support from their daughters. Did the experiences mirror the expectations? Well, "62% of the respondents said that having a son was advantageous in their old age" while the corresponding figure for daughters was only 31%. However, elderly respondents "overwhelmingly appreciated the non-financial care provided by daughters regardless of their marital status." An interesting element that emerged was that "even though there is greater expectation and experience of receiving financial support from sons, a substantial proportion expect to rely on their own savings/assets in old age."

For a clearer picture of the patterns of financial support, the authors gathered information on household income and sources of income. The annual household incomes of the households surveyed, on average, amounted to ₹1.3 lakhs a year, which was much lower than Haryana's per capita income in 2019 (₹2.5 lakhs). The study found that annual household incomes were significantly lower in daughter-only households, while there were no significant differences in average incomes between son-only and mixed-children households. In the bulk of the families, the main source of income was the Haryana government's Old Age Samman Allowance (in 2019 it provided ₹2,000 per month to 60+ persons domiciled in Haryana).

In the case of son-only families, children contribute 24% of household income, while in the case of daughter-only families, the daughters' contribution amounts to only 1.5% of household income. Daughter-only families also have lower income and rely more on income from pension and from their own jobs/farms. In mixed families, sons contribute 16% of household income, while daughters were reported not to contribute. However, what's telling is the support, or the lack of it, from children during emergencies. "In the case of almost all types of shocks, the elderly tend to rely on their own resources," the paper found. They borrow, or they sell assets. "The reliance on such a coping strategy ranges from 45% of shock-affected households in the case of economic shocks to 77% in the case of natural shocks," the survey found. Interestingly, "reliance on both sons and daughters is low or negligible for all shock types."

In the case of a health shock, however, there was more support from daughters (11%) as compared to sons (8%) – which goes against the grain of beliefs and myths that underpin son preference.

The study concludes by noting that in view of the higher prevalence of poverty and illness, "especially among older women, and among the elderly with only daughters, there is an urgent need for further strengthening health coverage and pension support."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Ms. C. Jyothi wants to know the meaning of the sentence 'He was like a bull in a China shop'."

" 'China', as you know, is the name of a country. It also means a hard white clay from which cups, saucers and plates are made. Cups, saucers and dishes made of this substance are also called china.

She has a fine collection of china.

A china shop is a shop where cups, saucers, etc. are sold. Imagine what would happen if a bull entered a china shop! A person who behaves in a clumsy or rough way when he is expected to behave gently and skilfully is referred to as a bull in a china shop.

When delicate negotiations were going on, he barged in like a bull in a china shop."

"Sir, what is the meaning of 'barge in'?"

" 'To barge in' is to intrude in a rough, crude fashion.

He has the nasty habit of barging into any conversation.

So 'barge in' means to interrupt or rush in rudely."

"Yes, sir. Several readers would like to know whether it is 'chip of the old block' or 'chip off the old block'."

"Both are acceptable. A person who resembles his father in character is called 'a chip off the old block'. A chip is a tiny piece of wood, stone, etc. When a small piece is broken off a table, you get a chip. This chip has the same characteristics of the table of which it was a part once. A block is any solid piece of wood or stone or metal. A chip from any one of these will have the qualities of the thing it was part of originally. This is the origin of the idiom. A chip of the old block means a person who has more or less the qualities of his father. It generally refers to the son who has the characteristics of his father. Clear?"

"Yes. sir. Mr. N. P. Gadkari wants to know the meaning of 'big gun'."

" 'Big gun' is used colloquially for 'an important or powerful person'.

He may be a big gun. But I don't care.

'Great gun' means the same as 'big gun'. What next?"

"Sir, Mr. K. L Lakshminarayana Rao wants to know whether 'family members' and 'staff members' are acceptable. He feels that the correct expressions are 'members of the family', 'a member of staff.'"

"Mr. Rao is correct. 'Family man', 'family planning,' 'family Bible', 'family doctor', 'family name' are all acceptable, but not 'family members'. The same applies to 'staff member'. 'Staff college', 'staff officer', 'staff nurse' are acceptable, but 'staff member', not yet. 'Office staff' means 'members of the office'. 'Staff' can also be used as a verb.

The office is under-staffed."

"Sir, is 'family' singular or plural?"

"It can be used both ways. It depends on the context.

Each family has its own problems. Here 'family' is used as a collective noun.

His family are highly individualistic.

My family aren't particularly gifted.

Here we refer to members of the family. Well, your family must be waiting for you. Let's stop here."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

"Goodbye."

Published in The Hindu on February 2, 1988

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As summer is upon us once again, it is also mango season. Here is a quiz on the king of fruits, its popular varieties and general trivia around it

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1

Which country is the world's largest producer of mangoes?

QUESTION 2

What is the scientific name of the mango tree?

QUESTION 3

By what popular name is this mango variety, first grown in the 19th century in the town of Thathachariar Thottam in Tamil Nadu, known as? Its noted for its sweet flavour, juicy flesh, and thin skin

QUESTION 4

According to the *Thiruvilayadal Puranam* popular in South India, which deity had a tiff with his parents because they decided to award a Golden Mango 'unfairly' to his brother?

QUESTION 5

Which country's national tree is the mango tree?

Visual question:

Identify this variety of mango. ISTOCKPHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The christened name of Herge and his country. **Ans: George Prosper Remi; Belgium**

2. The character considered by Herge scholars to be a precursor to Tintin. **Ans: Totor**

3. Tintin was 'born' on January 10, 1929 in this magazine. **Ans: *Le Petit Vingtième***

4. The popular comic series featuring two mischievous boys from Brussels and their run-ins with the local police. **Ans: Quick & Flupke**

5. This Chinese man inspired *The Blue Lotus*. **Ans: Chang Chong-Chen**

6. In *The Adventures of Jo, Zette and Jocko*, Jocko is this type of animal. **Ans: Chimpanzee**

7. 1652 Hergé is this type of heavenly body. **Ans: Asteroid**

Visual: The way the postal address of the Herge Museum pays tribute to Tintin. **Ans: Rue Labrador 26 was Tintin's first home in the books**

Early Birds: Himanshu Verma| Swati. S. Bhadauria| Indra Sharma| Narina Ramesh

Word of the day

Promulgate:

state or announce; put a law into effect by formal declaration

Synonyms: proclaim, exclaim

Usage: *The manager promulgated a new office policy.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/promulgatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɹɒmlˌgeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Busy with elections, city was just unprepared for onset of monsoon

Sources in the BBMP say that a lack of coordination among departments resulted in poor preparation ahead of rains

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Heavy rain that brought parts of Bengaluru to its knees on Sunday has yet again exposed the unpreparedness of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), with the monsoon just weeks away. This is despite the corporation coming under severe criticism for its failure to manage floods last year.

In September, 2022, overnight rain wreaked havoc in the city. The State government had allocated over ₹1,500 crore towards fixing faulty storm-water drains and for the removal of silt from drains.

The BBMP has been maintaining that it has been continually working towards averting floods, including clearing encroachments.

According to a BBMP official, of the 209 locations identified as flood-prone areas, the civic body could only resolve storm-water drain issues in 84 places.

The official maintained that elections and delay in payment to contractors slowed down the work. Unless immediate temporary measures are undertaken, these areas may reel under flooding. Many areas fall in the tech corridor in Mahadevapura zone.

Vehicles wade through a flooded road after heavy rainfall in Bengaluru on Sunday. ANI

"We have completed about 45% storm-water drain works, while removal of silt is a routine affair. We have managed to fix flood-related issues in many areas," said Basavaraj Kabade, Chief Engineer (SWD).

As per BBMP data, the civic body is yet to clear 784 encroachments from SWDs.

Sources in the BBMP say that a lack of coordination among departments resulted in poor preparation ahead of onset of the monsoon.

The Forest Department is yet to cut the branches, the Road Infrastructure Department has not cleaned side drains and many primary secondary drains are still filled with silt, while the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has failed to check the flow of sewage into the drains.

In several vulnerable places, pumpsets are not deployed to flush out water, and ducts on the roads and underpasses are choked with silt and fallen leaves.

"About 40-45% of BBMP officials were on election duty and for nearly a month, hardly any works were carried out jeopardising the preparations."

Sandeep Anirudhan, a civic activist, said the BBMP' encroachment drive has not yielded expected results. The drive has not cleared encroachments on rajakaluve and lake buffer zones and flood plains. The drive was merely focused on rajakaluves identified on revenue maps which have reduced in width owing to unchecked development.

Mr. Anirudhan alleged that the Bengaluru Development Authority's (BDA) revised master plan 2015 is faulty and the BBMP cannot rely on the same.

Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Commissioner, BBMP, speaking to *The Hindu*, said the civic body is fully prepared to face the monsoon.

He maintained that Sunday's accident was caused by 50 mm of rain that lashed in just 45 minutes. The volume of the rain and the falling of branches and leaves on the road caused flooding.

He said despite heavy rainfall, only 20 houses were flooded, and 15 houses in Mahalakshmi Layout were inundated, owing to the BBMP drain works which are under way.

Beginning this March, preparations were intensified and silt was being removed from drains. However, work on about 108 km of unlined drains, including between Varthur and Bellandur, will be taken up when necessary.

BBMP report blames gusty winds, dry leaves for flooding of underpass

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in its report on Sunday's tragedy, which claimed the life of 23-year-old Bhanurekha, blamed gusty winds that resulted in falling of dry leaves and branches, and the volume of rainfall for the flooding of the K.R. Circle underpass. The report also proposed construction of drains to check flooding.

It should be noted that the 23-year-old techie, working at Infosys, died after a multi-purpose utility vehicle (MUV) in which she was travelling along with her family, drowned in floodwaters at the underpass.

The report proposes building drains at the entry and the exit points to directly channel the rainwater to the main SWD. K. MURALI KUMAR

Unusual scenario

The report prepared by B.S. Prahlad, Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure), BBMP, said "In an unusual scenario, flooding at the underpass was caused by rainwater that carried leaves and branches that had fallen due to gusty winds."

The volume of the rain in a brief span of one hour which was 24.7 mm, was also cited as a reason for the neck-deep flooding.

The report said that the dry leaves and branches closed the small vents of gratings placed on the drain, choking rainwater on the surface. This was found when fire attendants pumped the water out of the structure.

The report claimed that although the existing drain has a capacity to push 12.5 lakh rainwater out every hour, the leaves stuck in the gratings made it impossible to channel the water.

What it proposes

The report also proposed building drains at the entry and the exit points to directly channel the rainwater, falling on four different roads converging at K.R. Circle, to the main storm-water drain.

The report also recommended building humps at the entry point to slow down the movement of vehicles.

Besides installing surveillance cameras at the structure, the report has proposed to set up a vertical clearance gauge beam.

The BBMP has recommended putting up a boom barrier to restrict the movement of vehicles during emergency flood situations.

The report has set a deadline of 15 days to implement these measures.

Heavy rain claims lives in Chikkamagaluru and Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/MYSURU

Moderate to heavy rain that lashed various parts of Karnataka led to loss of lives and disruptions.

In Chikkamagaluru, Venugopal, 60, died after a tree fell on him near Chikkahalla near Mudigere on Sunday evening. He was driving his scooter when the tree fell on him during the rain.

In Mysuru, two persons died due to lightning while another was electrocuted during the heavy rain that lashed parts of the district on Sunday evening.

According to sources in the Disaster Management Cell of Mysuru district, a 42-year-old farmer, Harish, was returning home from the fields in Beejaganahalli near Mantikoppal in Hunsur taluk around 10.30 p.m., when he was struck by lightning and died.

In another incident, Lokesh, 55, a resident of Avarthi village in Periyapatna taluk, was struck by lightning when he was grazing cattle on Sunday evening.

One more death took place on May 19, when Shobha, 40, a construction worker, died in Kundegala village of Periypatna district, after a tree fell on the asbestos roof under which she had taken shelter.

31-year-old man drowns after slipping into storm-water drain while trying to gauge its depth in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the death of a 23-year-old IT employee at K.R. Circle underpass following heavy rain on Sunday, a 31-year-old man drowned in an overflowing storm-water drain in K.P. Agarahara on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Lokesh, a housekeeping staff in a private firm. He stepped out of his house during heavy rain and appeared to be trying to get into the SWD. Neighbours warned him about the danger, but he reportedly told them that he was trying to gauge the depth of water. Even while people were telling him to step back, he slipped into the drain and drowned.

Lokesh

The K.P. Agarahara police rushed to the spot along with the Fire and Emergency Services personnel. They found the body a few yards away from the spot where Mr. Lokesh had slipped into the drain.

The body was shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem. The police have taken up a case of unnatural death.

Earlier on Sunday, torrential rain and hailstorms battered Bengaluru. Bhanurekha, a 23-year-old techie, drowned after the car she was travelling in submerged in an underpass at K.R. Circle.

A resident of Pragathi Nagar, near Electronics City, Ms. Bhanurekha was an employee at Infosys. She was out with her family, who were visiting her from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. The family had booked a cab for sightseeing. Their last stop was Cubbon Park, which was closed due to rain. On their way back home, at the underpass of K.R. Circle, persuaded by an autorickshaw driver, cab driver Harisha tried to get past the flooded underpass. The vehicle got stuck.

38 trees uprooted in Cubbon Park

These many trees have not been uprooted in the green space since 2020, when around 45 trees had fallen down. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Sangeetha Kestur
BENGALURU

Sunday's squall and heavy rain also affected one of the biggest lung spaces in the city, Cubbon Park. According to officials of the Horticulture Department, around 38 trees were uprooted in the park on Sunday, while several other branches also broke off.

These many trees have not been uprooted in the green space since 2020, when around 45 trees had fallen down.

"In Cubbon Park we generally keep a lookout for old trees, dry branches, and prune trees, but due to the pre-monsoon showers we have been even more proactive than usual," said Balakrishna, Deputy Director, Cubbon Park, Horticulture Department.

The strong surface winds, with gusts up to 40 kilometres per hour, along with the heavy rain also uprooted several trees in the city.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) control room received tree/branch falling complaints from areas such as Vijayanagar, Chandra Layout, Malleswaram, Sampige Road, Indiranagar, Domlur, Kasturba Road, J.P. Nagar, Basavanagudi, Padmanabhanagar, Ittamadu, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, and Banashankari.

"Owing to the heavy rain on both Saturday and Sunday, a total of 109 trees were uprooted in the BBMP limits," said Sarina Sikkaligar, DCF, BBMP.

The trees, which were not fully cleared even until Monday evening, had caused traffic snarls in many parts of the city.

Woman's death: Civic officials, cab driver booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have booked civic engineers concerned and driver of the cab that got submerged in the K.R. Circle underpass on Sunday for causing death due to negligence.

Based on a complaint filed by Batula Sandeep, the Halasuru Gate police charged BBMP officials for poor maintenance of the underpass that led to the death of a 23-year-old woman and also driver Harish for driving the car inside the underpass while it was flooded.

He alleged that the driver despite knowing that the underpass was being flooded drove into it following an autorickshaw.

As the car was submerged, the driver tried to switch on the engine, tried to open the door but in vain. He later broke the window glass and tried to attract the attention of people so that they could come to help.

Meanwhile, water gushed in, and Bhanurekha sitting in the back seat panicked and drank water, the complainant explained. By the time Fire and Emergency Service personnel and public rescued them, Bhanurekha was unconscious and was taken to hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. The police arrested Harish, even as they have summoned the BBMP officials concerned to appear for investigation.

546 electricity poles damaged in showers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst citizens' constant complaints about the poor state of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company's (Bescom) infrastructure, the thunderstorms on Saturday and Sunday damaged a total of 546 electricity poles, 64 transformers, and nine double pole structures, in areas under the Bescom's jurisdiction. As a result, power supply was cut off to many areas for hours on Sunday.

An electricity pole that was damaged in the rain in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While a total of 142 poles fell down and 20 transformers were damaged in Saturday's rain, another 404 poles broke down, 44 transformers and nine double pole structures were damaged on Sunday.

Apart from that, many trees and branches fell down on the electricity lines which also led to power interruption at some places.

Bescom officials went to the affected areas and ensured that electricity was restored as soon as possible, by replacing poles and clearing the trees and branches from the lines, according to a press release from Bescom. The officials have also begun assessment of the rain damage.

"Owing to the heavy rain and wind, basic electricity infrastructure was damaged. We have taken steps to restore power supply at places where it was cut off," said Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom.

Electricity supply was affected in places like Hebbal, Malleswaram, Yelahanka, Vijayanagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Hesarghatta, Koramangala, Jayanagar, Kengeri, among other places.

In Bescom's rural jurisdiction, several places in Tumakuru, Malur, Sarjapur, Chandapur, KGF, among others were also affected.

The Bescom helpline number, 1912, received a total of 44,784 calls on Sunday and 22,249 complaints were lodged, the press release said.

50% of mangoes ready for harvest destroyed in Kolar due to hailstorm

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

After consecutive off years, mango farmers were hoping to make at least a little money out of the crop, before the hailstorm on Sunday shattered their dreams. Around 50% of mangoes ready for harvest were destroyed in the rain and wind, in Kolar district, the major mango growing region of the State.

The mango crop that was damaged in the heavy rain at Srinivaspura in Kolar. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

"Due to the weather conditions, unusual flowering patterns, and other problems, we were only left with around 30% of the usual yield this time. Many varieties like Sendhoora, Tothapuri, and Benishan (Banganapalli) were ready for harvest across the district and then it rained. We lost almost 50% of what was left this year," said Neelaturu Chinnappa Reddy, president, Kolar District Mango Growers' Association.

Previously in March, two days of hailstorms had also played spoilsport and destroyed around 80-90% of the mangoes in many fields. There are around 2 lakh mango growers in Kolar district. "Farmers were happy and ready to harvest the mangoes, but then the hailstorm lashed the fields. They have to endure great losses now, as around 50-60% of the fruits fell down after the rain," said Nalini Gowda A., who heads the Kolar District Farmer's Association's women wing.

She added that even those who had already booked mangoes directly from the farmers would not pay the full amount now, as the rain ruined the quality of the fruits.

The gusty winds also took a toll on other horticulture crops in the district. "Tomatoes, capsicum, and many flower crops were majorly affected," said Ms. Gowda.

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INBRIEF

CLP meeting tomorrow, decision on Speaker likely

A meeting of the Congress Legislature Party has been convened on Wednesday at the conference hall of the Vidhana Soudha at 9 a.m. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, AICC general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, and MLC B.K. Hariprasad will attend, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The meeting is likely to decide the candidates for the posts of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Rajneesh Goel is Additional Chief Secretary to CM

The 1986 batch IAS officer Rajneesh Goel *(in picture)*, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to Home Department, has been placed in concurrent charge of the post of ACS to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said an official notification. KAS officer B. Shivaswamy has been appointed as the joint secretary to the Chief Minister. Senior journalist K.V. Prabhakar has been appointed media adviser to the Chief Minister with Cabinet rank, another order said. M. Venkatesh has been appointed as the special officer to the Chief Minister on a contract basis.

Class X supplementary exam to be held from June 12 to 19

Class X (SSLC) supplementary exam will be held from June 12 to 19 across the State. Exams of first languages Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, English, and Sanskrit will be held on June 12. Science will be held on June 13, Second languages English and Kannada will be held on June 14 and social science on June 15. Third languages Hindi, Kannada, English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani, and Tulu will be on June 16 and maths will be held on June 17.

Most MLAs take oath in the name of God and Constitution, some in the name of voters, *gomata*, and DKS

In all, 182 MLAs, including the CM and Deputy CM, took oath on the first day of the legislature session and the ceremony will continue today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Though a majority of the newly-elect MLAs took oath in the name of God and the Constitution of India, a few of them took oath in the name of voters and local deities.

In all, 182 MLAs, including the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, took oath on the first day of the legislature session on Monday. The oath-taking ceremony will continue on Tuesday also.

(Clockwise from top left) Pro tem Speaker R.V. Deshpande greeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the Legislative Assembly session in Bengaluru on Monday: Basavaraj Bommai taking oath, and Congress MLA Laxmi Hebbalkar greeting Mr. Siddaramaiah. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaker's advice

Before the commencement of the oath-taking ceremony, pro tem Speaker R.V. Deshpande told the MLAs to take oath in the name of God or the Constitution and not in the name of individuals.

However, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal of the BJP took the oath in the name of Hindutva and *gomata*, while Bavaraju V. Shivaganga of the Congress, representing Channagiri constituency, took oath in the name of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took the oath in the name of God. Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar took oath in the name of Gangadhar Ajjaiah, his religious guru. H.A. Iqbal Hussain of the Congress (Ramangara) took oath in the name of voters.

First-time member Bhagirathi Murulya of the BJP from Sullia took oath in the name of her local deities and voters. At this stage, irked with the violation of the rule by members, Mr. Deshpande told Assembly Secretary M.K. Vishalakshi to see that members took the name in the name of the God or Constitution. Later, a majority of the members followed the rule.

Former Minister Shivananda Patil (Congress) took the oath in the name of 12th Century social reformer Basaveshwara.

Former Chief Minister G. Janardhana Reddy, who was visiting the Vidhana Soudha after a decade, took oath in the name of "Anjanadri", the hill believed to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman in Koppal district.

Similarly, a couple of legislators, including G.T. Deve Gowda of the JD(S), paid their due respect to Goddess Chamundeshwari and took the oath in the name of the deity.

Before the commencement of the proceedings of the House, Mr. Shivakumar took photographs with BJP leaders Basavaraj Bommai, R. Ashok, and Araga Jnanendra. He took photographs with Mr. Janardhana Reddy at the Assembly lounge.

Senior-most member

Earlier in the day, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered oath to Mr. Deshpande as pro tem Speaker of the House at the Raj Bhavan. Mr. Deshpande is the senior-most and ninth-term member of the House.

At the beginning of the session, Mr. Deshpande said: "We all have been elected and come here with the blessings of the people of Karnataka. There are some senior leaders, and I can also see some new faces. We have to put efforts for the all-round development of the State. Despite political differences, for the sake of the State's progress and growth, we will all have to work together to build a model Karnataka, which is prosperous, and all sections of people live in peace and harmony."

State Govt. had no power to appoint administrator to Murugha Mutt: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday quashed the Government Order (GO) appointing an administrator to Jagadguru Murugharajendra Bruhan Math, Chitradurga, and gave liberty to the devotees of the mutt and prominent leaders of Veerashaiva/Lingayat community to devise an appropriate action plan to administer and manage the mutt and educational institutions run under its aegis.

"The Karnataka Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (Amendment) Act, 2011, insulates the mutts from State interference, be it administrative functions, religious rites, or other temporal activities. If that be so, it is ununderstandable, to say the least, as to how an administrator can be appointed by the government of the day," the court observed.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by the mutt and its devotees questioning the legality of the State government's executive order, issued on December 13, 2022, under Article 162 of the Constitution of India, appointing a retired IAS officer as the mutt administrator. The government appointed administrator after mutt's seer, Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, was arrested in a sexual assault case in September 2022.

The court said that the 2011 Act made it clear that "the mutts and temples attached to the mutts are kept out of the purview of the Act, as the mutts are headed and managed by mathadipathis".

"The State and its functionaries should realise that by their very nature they cannot be panacea to all evils in society. As of necessity, it should leave religious institutions to solve their problems on their own by appropriate measure, such as community mediation/conciliation or judicial process, of course subject to all just exceptions," the court observed.

Referring to legal remedy available under Section 92 of Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) to address the issue arising over administration of mutt due to detention of seer under judicial custody, the court said that no explanation was offered by the government as to why it had not instituted a representative suit under section 92 of CPC to remedy the issue.

It is open to devotees or members of Veerashaiva/Lingayat community to avail themselves the remedy of representative suit under Section 92 of the CPC, the court said, while allowing continuation of administrator for six weeks only to take care of day-to-day affairs of the mutt and not to take any major decision, till the devotees or the leaders come out with an action plan.

The fact that the government had allotted some land to the mutt and given some funds, *per se*, would not justify its interference, especially when the terms and conditions subject to which that had been done did not authorise action of appointing an administrator, the court said, while declining to accept the government's justification on appointing an administrator under its control.

Bommai challenges new govt. to prove allegations of 40% commission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday challenged the newly-formed Congress government to prove with evidence its allegations that his dispensation was collecting a commission of 40% from contractors.

He threw the challenge while responding to the Congress government's decision to inquire into scams of the previous dispensation.

"The responsibility of providing evidence in support of the allegations lies with the Congress. The Congress is free to release all the documents to support the allegations. Let them show that I have received 40% commission"

Pointing out that the Karnataka Contractors' Association had levelled allegations of 40% commission against his dispensation, he said if the allegations are true, then they should now bid for 40% lesser for all contract works. "If the contractors participate in tenders for the same amount then it would show that a 40% commission exists now also," he argued.

'Cong. took advantage'

"Contractors association president Kempanna has failed to give any document either to the court or to the government to prove his allegations. He only carried out a miscampaign against the then BJP government which the Congress took advantage of," Mr. Bommai alleged.

"The new government is free to order an inquiry into everything that happened during the Congress government between 2013 and 2018 and the BJP government from 2019 to 2023, including the PSI recruitment scam. Let the truth come out. The scams of the previous Congress government have been already referred to the Lokayukta," he said.

State tour

Mr. Bommai said the BJP, which held an introspection meeting on Sunday about the poll debacle, had got reports from all the districts. While the candidates were to be blamed in some places, the organisation was being blamed in some other, he said. The meeting had decided to rectify the mistakes and reorganise the party organisation besides strengthening it ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. As part of such measures, the State leaders would tour the State shortly, he said.

Cong. workers perform rituals with cow urine

Congress supporters performing rituals by sprinkling cow urine on the premises of Vidhana Soudha on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the first day of the 16th Legislative Assembly session on Monday, a few Congress workers performed "purification" rituals by sprinkling cow urine on the premises of Vidhana Soudha.

The workers said they performed the pooja to remove the "40% sarkara" tag attached to the State when the BJP was in charge of the government. One of the Congress workers said the rituals symbolised "washing away the corrupt BJP government" from Vidhana Soudha.

Workers of the Congress were seen, along with a priest, performing rituals with cow urine in front of Vidhana Soudha before the commencement of the three-day session. No minister or Congress MLA attended the programme.

A BJP worker termed the act as a "cheap antic" by Congress workers. In January 2023, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar had said that he will clean the Vidhana Soudha with dettol and cow urine, asking the ruling BJP to "pack up."

Special trains extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

South Western Railway has extended the following trains. Train No. 06517 Yeshwantpur-Hindupur unreserved daily express special and Train No. 06518 Hindupur-Yeshwantour unreserved daily express special trains have been extended from May 22. East Coast Railway has extended the following trains. Train No. 08543 Visakhapatnam-Bengaluru Cantonment Weekly express special extended from June 4 to 25. Train No. 08544 Bengaluru Cantonment-Visakhapatnam Weekly Express special extended from June 5 to 26.

DKS calls on former CMs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday called on former Chief Ministers H.D. Deve Gowda, S.M. Krishna, and M. Veerappa Moily to seek their blessings and advise on assuming new responsibility.

Mr. Shivakumar began courtesy visits to the residences of veteran leaders by calling on Mr. Krishna. Nonagenarian Mr. Krishna presented him a book titled "Bengalurina Itihaasa" (History of Bengaluru). Mr. Shivakumar said: "Mr. Krishna has encouraged me in my political career. It is my duty to seek his blessings and advise on this occasion."

He met Mr. Moily at his residence. Mr. Moily presented him "Sri Bahubali Ahimsa Digvijayam" authored by himself.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar met JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda at his residence in Bengaluru on Monday.

Mr. Shivakumar then called on former Prime Minister Mr. Deve Gowda at his residence in Padmanabhanagar. "Mr. Deve Gowda is a leader who has served the people of the State and assumed very high position. He is a person with great determination," he told media persons.

Mr. Shivakumar said he would meet a few more leaders on Tuesday to seek their guidance.

CM stops release of funds for works sanctioned by previous government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The works sanctioned by the erstwhile BJP dispensation will now be in a limbo as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has ordered stopping of release of funds as well as payments of bills towards them.

A circular said the Chief Minister has also asked to put on hold works sanctioned by the previous government if they are yet to start. This is being interpreted as a measure to save resources for implementing the poll promises made by the Congress. Monday's circular indicates that the government is serious about pooling resources for implementation of its guarantees as the works sanctioned by the previous dispensation is not the priority of this government, a Congress leader said.

The circular has stopped the release of funds or payment of bills towards the works taken by all the departments as well as boards, corporations, and various authorities as per the instructions of the previous dispensation. However, this is expected to trigger political sparks. A BJP leader observed that government is continuous and there is no logic in putting a work taken by the previous dispensation in a limbo.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th ANNIVERSARY

R.ARUNJUNAIMARAN MA.BL.,
Advocate, Virudhunagar
Expired on 23.05.2013
Fondly Remembered by:
Dr.R.Arunmozhimaran
M.S.Ortho
& Family

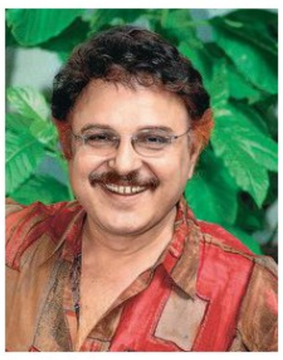
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

We Miss You

LALITHA JANARDHAN
22.01.1978 - 23.05.2003
D/o LATE SRI.S.JANARDHAN
"Time has gone by but memories of your are still fresh in our minds"
Grieved by :
Sudha Janardhan (Mother)
Kshama Srinivasan(Cousin)

Versatile Telugu, Tamil actor Sarath Babu takes last bow

S.B. Vijaya Mary
B. Kolappan
HYDERABAD/CHENNAI


Sarath Babu

Veteran actor Sarath Babu, 71, passed away on Monday at a city hospital in Hyderabad. He was ailing from kidney and liver-related issues.

Tall, striking, handsome and sartorially elegant, the bespectacled actor often looked more like a corporate professional than someone who had been cast in a film role by the director. He featured in some of Tamil cinema's most memorable song sequences, and was an able lead and supporting actor, as well as villain, on screen.

"Who can forget the dashing engineer, Kumaran, in Mahendran's *Mullum Malarum,* and the iconic song, '*Senthazham Poovil Vanthadum Thendral*', under the cinematography of Balu Mahendra?" writer Suka asked.

Babu's father was a hotelier and he wanted his son to take over his business. But Babu wanted to become a police officer. That dream crashed when he developed near-sightedness while in college and was unable to clear the physical tests.

"People told my mother that I was good-looking and should try to get into films. My father was against it but my mother supported me. I responded to an advertisement in the newspaper for fresh faces for a film and I got through the audition more easily than I had expected," the actor had said in an interview to *The Hindu*.

Director Balachander introduced him in the Tamil film *Pattina Pravesam*.

He had memorable roles in films starring the reigning heroes of that period – Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth – including that of Venkatachalam, the heroine's brother in *Nizhal Nijamagiradhu;* Ragupathy, who would cover the body of his friend from being drenched in *Salangai Oli;* Prakash, the health officer in Mahendran's *Uthiripookal;* and the friend-turned-foe, Ashok, in *Annamalai*.

A regular in Telugu and Tamil cinema, Babu acted with almost all the leading heroes and heroines of both industries. Though he started with aspirations to become a hero, he was wise enough to accept smaller roles from directors like K. Balachander, Vamsi and Dasari Narayan Rao. His ubiquitous presence in Tamil, Telugu and even some Kannada and Malayalam films, made him a household name in the 1970s.

Dhankhar calls for reflection on disruptions in Parliament

V-P says that nation expects House, State Legislatures to maintain high standards; inaugurating the silver jubilee fete of Assembly building, he says it had witnessed evolution of Kerala society

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Jagdeep Dhankhar at the inauguration of the silver jubilee fete of the Kerala Legislative Assembly building. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday called for serious reflection on what he termed a tendency to "weaponise" disruption and disturbance as a political strategy in Parliament and State legislatures.

Leaders of Houses and the presiding officers must analyse this malaise and create a national consensus that the temples of democracy would be used for deliberation and debate, he said. He was inaugurating the silver jubilee fete of the Kerala Legislative Assembly building.

"The nation expects Parliament and legislatures to establish traditions of parliamentary democracy that exemplify the highest standards," he said. "If the conduct displayed in Parliament is not worth emulation, there is something lacking that involves catalysing and thinking by our minds," he said.

The Vice President, who arrived here on Sunday on a two-day visit, showered praise on Kerala and the State Assembly.

Mr. Dhankhar noted that the foundation for the Kerala Assembly building was laid in 1979.

Over the past 25 years, the building had witnessed the evolution of Kerala society, "serving as a crucible where numerous debates generated executive accountability, a nerve centre of many path-breaking legislations", he said. He unveiled the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the legislature complex.

V-P calls on his teacher in Kannur

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, along with wife Sudesh Dhankhar, called on his beloved school-teacher Ratna Nair at her residence at Champad in Kannur on Monday.

Earlier, he had expressed his desire to visit his teacher who taught him at Sainik School in Rajasthan. On meeting her after 55 years, Mr. Dhankhar touched his teacher's feet seeking her blessings.

Expressing her happiness, Ms. Nair told him that "there can't be a better *guru dakshina* than this."

Siddaramaiah will stay at the helm for the entire five-year term, says M.B. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Senior Congress leader M.B. Patil on Monday said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would remain at the helm for the entire five-year term of the government.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Suttur Mutt seer Shivaratri Desikendra Swami at Suttur Mutt, near here, Mr. Patil, who is also among the newly inducted Ministers, denied that there was any power-sharing arrangement in the State.

No power-sharing

He ruled out the possibility of Mr. Siddaramaiah's replacement after the Lok Sabha polls, and said there was no power-sharing arrangement in the State if the statements made by the AICC leadership were taken into account. He said the new Congress government would investigate irregularities of the BJP government, including corruption and scandals like PSI recruitment scam. "We will take it to the logical end," he said.

M.B. Patil

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.1	20.8	Kozhikode	3	35.8	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	42.1	28.0	Kurnool	—	40.6	27.6
Aizawl	0.4	34.9	20.2	Lucknow	—	41.4	26.9
Allahabad	—	44.0	27.4	Madurai	—	37.7	27.1
Bengaluru	31.4	32.2	21.0	Mangaluru	7	34.4	23.4
Bhopal	—	—	—	Mumbai	—	33.7	27.0
Bhubaneswar	—	39.8	25.5	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	43.1	25.0	New Delhi	—	43.7	23.7
Chennai	—	36.7	28.6	Patna	—	38.4	26.2
Coimbatore	—	36.2	24.0	Port Blair	0.4	33.7	26.8
Dehradun	—	39.3	21.4	Puducherry	—	35.6	28.8
Gangtok	—	22.4	13.9	Pune	—	39.5	23.4
Goa	—	35.5	27.6	Raipur	—	42.8	27.0
Guwahati	5	30.4	21.8	Ranchi	—	41.0	26.6
Hubballi	—	37.0	25.0	Shillong	2	25.4	15.0
Hyderabad	15	37.2	21.6	Shimla	—	28.8	19.2
Imphal	7	30.5	19.2	Srinagar	—	30.4	13.0
Jaipur	—	42.6	29.8	Thiruvananthapuram	1	34.0	26.1
Kochi	17	32.8	23.8	Tiruchi	—	38.5	28.0
Kohima	9	26.8	15.6	Vijayawada	—	39.1	28.2
Kolkata	—	37.6	26.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.6	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	—	.10	206	239	
Bengaluru	7	.55	.49	27	63	
Chennai	2	.73	137	73	67	
Delhi	.10	.51	.47	309	259	
Hyderabad	.13	.12	.38	76	90	
Kolkata	.32	.16	.22	45	52	
Lucknow	.10	.66	.31	204	241	
Mumbai	.75	.29	.57	21	71	
Pune	114	167	115	117	97	
Visakhapatnam	.17	.46	.24	58	92	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 332 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Thanjavur liquor deaths case: 2 held

The Hindu Bureau
THANJAVUR

The Thanjavur East police on Monday arrested the owner Senthil and employee Kamaraj of the bar which sold the 'cyanide-laced' liquor that led to the deaths of Kuppusamy, 68, and Vivek, 36, on Sunday.

Four employees of a Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) retail outlet on South East Rampart Road were also suspended. Investigations revealed that they had supplied the liquor to the bar two to three hours before the shop opened. Officials divulged the names of the suspended employees as Muruganandam, manager, and Thirunavukkarasu, Sathyaseelan and Balu.

Weaving success

Riot of colours: A weaver preparing yarns of different colours for handloom products near Mangalagiri in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Handloom sarees, dhotis and other garments made by Mangalagiri weavers are in great demand in the market. G.N. RAO

TIWG: G20 members to deliberate on trade and technology in Bengaluru for 3 days from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the successful completion of the first Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) Meeting in Mumbai, the second TIWG under India's G20 presidency is scheduled in Bengaluru between May 23 and 25, said a statement from the Union Commerce Ministry.

During the three-day meeting, nearly 75 delegates from G20 countries, invitee countries, and regional and international organisations would participate in deliberations on finding agreed solutions on issues related to international trade and investment.

On Tuesday, a seminar is being organised which would discuss the disruptive role of technology in driving inclusive growth and resilient trade. Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry would deliver a keynote address.

Some 200 delegates from G20 member countries, international organisations, representatives from the technology sector and business community are expected to participate in deliberations on various issues around trade and technology.

Panel discussion

The seminar will also feature two panel discussions: one on how technology is reshaping trade and the other on transformative tools for revolutionising manufacturing and trade. Some of the panelists include Saurabh Chandra, Managing Director, Boston Consulting Group, Alok Nanda, CTO, GE South Asia and CEO GE India Technology Centre, Eske Bo Knudsen Rosenberg, Consul General and Head of Trade and Innovation Centre, Denmark.

Minor impregnated by brother allowed to abort at 32 weeks

Press Trust of India
KOCHI

Social and medical complications are likely to arise if abortion is not permitted, says court

The Kerala High Court has allowed medical termination of pregnancy of a minor girl who was impregnated by her own brother, saying that various social and medical complications are likely to arise if abortion was not permitted.

Justice Ziyad Rahman A.A. said that even according to the report of a Medical Board constituted to examine the girl, continuation of the over 32-week pregnancy was likely to cause grave injury to the social and mental health of the 15-year-old victim.

"Considering the fact, the child is born from his own sibling, various social and medical complications are likely to arise. In such circumstances, the permission as sought for by the petitioner to terminate the pregnancy is inevitable," the court said. "Upon perusal of the medical report, it is evident that the child is physically and mentally fit for medical termination of pregnancy," the court said.

Life cycle of Spotted Royal Butterfly documented for first time in India

C.P. Sajit
KANNUR

Rare sighting: The species is found in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka in the Western Ghats region. THE HINDU

A team of wildlife researchers and photographers has, for the first time, recorded and documented the complete life cycle of a rare Spotted Royal Butterfly, scientifically known as *Tajuria maculata,* near Lakkidi in Wayanad.

The team comprising Umesh Pavukandi, David Raju, and V.K. Chandrasekharan recorded the complete life cycle of the species. They claimed that the study was being conducted for the first time in India.

Mr. Raju said the eggs of the butterfly were identified by Mr. Pavukandi. As many as 47 eggs were found on the leaves of the parasitic plant Loranthus (*Ithilkanni*), attached to a coffee plant at a height of two metres from the ground. The sighting of the butterfly itself was rare, and to find the eggs in such large numbers was even rarer, he added.

The other Royal butterflies, which are generally beautiful and rare, complete their life cycle on Loranthus plants. But unlike them, it had been observed that Spotted Royal butterflies arranged their eggs in clusters, and the hatching caterpillars fed on the leaves together and advanced in groups, he said.

Muhammad Jaffer Pallot, environmentalist and Senior Zoological Assistant, Zoological Survey of India, said though the species was found in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka in the Western Ghats region, the sighting of the butterfly was rare. It had been sighted in Kerala only a few times, he added.

Mr. Pallot added the discovery of such ecologically important species would lead to further research, biodiversity studies, and conservation efforts.

CBI team reaches Kurnool to question MP Avinash Reddy

The Hindu Bureau
KURNOOL

Arrest of Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy, who has stayed put at a hospital here, looms large with the Central Reserve Police Force personnel likely to reach Kurnool on Tuesday.

A large number of State police personnel are being rushed to the area to take control of the situation.

Mr. Reddy, who was supposed to appear before the CBI at Hyderabad on Monday, sought time till May 25, in view of the ongoing cardiac treatment of his mother.

A seven-member CBI team reached Kurnool on Monday but could not contact Mr. Reddy as the entire hospital area was under the control of his supporters from Kadapa. The team is holding discussions with the SP to provide them support as more than 2,500 supporters of Mr. Reddy have surrounded the hospital.

The CBI has been asked by the Supreme Court to complete the investigation in the former Minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy's murder case by June 30.

Mr. Reddy's lawyers approached the Supreme Court on Monday seeking early hearing of his anticipatory bail petition, but the SC listed it for Tuesday.

Solidarity for peace

The G-7 must build a global consensus on the world's challenges

By holding the meeting of the "G-7", or the so-called group of the world's most industrialised nations, in Hiroshima, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who belongs to the city, wanted to send out a message of global solidarity for peace. In addition to the symbolism of bringing leaders of all G-7 members with the EU leadership to the peace memorial for the victims of the 1945 atomic bombing, the grouping issued a special "Hiroshima Vision Statement on Nuclear Disarmament". The summit's importance was underlined by the fact that the U.S. President, Joseph Biden, only the second sitting American President to visit the city, made a particular point of attending the summit. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's surprise arrival also enhanced the message by turning the spotlight on the horrors of Russia's invasion; Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that the crisis was one of "humanity" was significant. The G-7 members issued a separate statement on Ukraine, hitting Russia with more sanctions, but failed to highlight a path towards dialogue and ending the war. Despite the invitation of countries such as India, Brazil, Indonesia and Vietnam with a less black-and-white view of the world, and Mr. Kishida making pertinent references to the views of the Global South, the summit's statements reflected a much more polarised view of the world – that of G-7 members alone.

If the G-7 grouping wishes to broaden its prism, it must recognise that it is grossly unrepresentative of the world today. While members together represent more than half the world's net wealth, the G-7 accounts for less than a third of the global GDP, and just over a tenth of the world's population. Apart from Japan, the G-7 membership comprises an essentially Euro-American worldview, and is not discussing expanding that view soon. It has actually contracted, after it expelled Russia over its annexation of areas of Georgia in 2008 and then Crimea in 2014. It is also hard to justify an economic grouping that does not include some of the world's largest economies (China and India) or the fastest growing GDPs, or biggest global energy providers. While some efforts were made in Hiroshima to recognise the G-7's role in, for example, promoting transparent financing and debt sustainability for the developing world, or in compensating for the developed world's contribution to global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, the summit failed to propose concrete measures to help defray these responsibilities. As the spotlight shifts to the G-20 summit later this year in Delhi, it is hoped the grouping will work towards a more inclusive outlook and help in building a more comprehensive global consensus on some of the bigger challenges the world faces today.

Slow withdrawal

Without setting a deadline, RBI could have withdrawn the notes gradually

The Reserve Bank of India's May 19 announcement that ₹2,000 banknotes would be withdrawn from circulation, coming just over seven-and-a-half years since the economically deleterious demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes, has triggered a sense of *déjà vu*. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision in November 2016, to abruptly and completely rescind the legal tender status of the then available high value currency notes was ostensibly aimed at 'combatting black money and terror financing', the RBI has asserted that the latest move is in pursuance of its 'Clean Note Policy' and does not alter the legal tender status of the withdrawn notes. The central bank has, however, set a September 30 deadline for the exchange or deposit of the withdrawn currency, thereby triggering difficulties for the common individual to continue to use the note. Reports from across the country speak of consumers, including wage earners in sectors such as construction, struggling to pay for the purchase of medicines, petrol and other day-to-day essentials despite the notes continuing to remain legal tender. Given that the RBI has acknowledged that the printing of new ₹2,000 notes was stopped in 2018-19, the sudden decision to withdraw the notes in circulation has raised questions about the rationale. The RBI stated that about 89% of the ₹2,000 notes were issued between November 2016 and March 2017 "to meet the currency requirement of the economy in an expeditious manner" following demonetisation and that since then lower denominations had become adequately available, obviating the need for the ₹2,000 notes.

The central bank has also contended that the notes sought to be withdrawn were "at the end of their estimated life-span of 4-5 years", and that the value of these bills in circulation had declined to ₹3.62 lakh crore, or 10.8% of the total notes in circulation, as on March 31. A look at previous withdrawals of bills by the RBI shows, for instance, that starting in April 2014, all banknotes issued prior to 2005, or almost a decade earlier, were gradually withdrawn even as they continued to enjoy legal tender status. Even today, lower value bills issued at least as far back as 2013, and which are used far more frequently in everyday transactions, continue to remain in circulation, raising doubts about the RBI's 'clean note' reasoning. The RBI retains the right to issue or withdraw currency bills as it deems fit for the conduct of its policy mandate, but the lack of transparency now, and the administrative flip flops, do little to enhance trust in its "promise to pay the bearer" the note's face value.

Karnataka's new, yet daunting, journey to development

Srivatsa Krishna

is an IAS officer

As the dust settles in Karnataka over what was seen by many as a foregone conclusion, it is now time to get down to the business of governance. Over a 35-year period, between August 1988 to May 2023, the State has had 18 different governments (many Chief Ministers more than once) and was under President's Rule four times. So, it is 22 different configurations across a 35-year period, leading to a not-so-healthy average of 18 months per configuration. Karnataka is a synonym for instability if data is to be believed. One wonders what this augurs for the State with this kind of a history.

A trillion-dollar economy goal

Karnataka aspires to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2032 and needs a 17%-18% Compound Annual Growth Rate in its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to make this happen over the next decade – the current CAGR is around 13% – thus, a steep ask. During 2022-23, Karnataka's per capita GSDP was around $4,000 which is almost twice that of India's per capita GDP. Its GDP is around $250 billion, but the distribution is skewed, with the bulk of the contribution from the services sector. Of this, the roughly $60 billion digital economy is largely centered in and around Bengaluru, straining the infrastructure of a city which simply was not built for such explosive growth; therefore, building satellite technology/other clusters on the lines of Cyberabad, Mohali, Oragadam (Tamil Nadu), Navi Mumbai, and Naya Raipur (Chhattisgarh) is critical. Bengaluru has about two million knowledge professionals; a simple back-of-the-envelope calculation will reveal the staggering number of buses which deposit and bring back this workforce, in two shifts, from the four or five clusters within the city, almost bringing these places to a virtual halt. No other city faces this issue on such a scale.

The services sector grew the most during this period, at 15.5%, followed by manufacturing at 10.8%, and agriculture at 11.8%. The services sector was also the largest contributor to Karnataka's GSDP, making up more than two-thirds of the economy. Thus, there is ample headroom to focus on manufacturing and agriculture in terms of productivity increases and to also grow the size of the cake. The path to a trillion-dollar economy cannot rest on the shoulders of services, and technology alone.

At a time when civil service tenures are notoriously short in almost all the States of the country, Karnataka's Finance Secretary has set a national record of sorts by being in his position since August 31, 2013, for an unbroken 10 years, presenting 13 Budgets. With an outstanding team of IAS officers in finance, this has helped keep Karnataka fiscally sane. The data again speaks louder than words. Karnataka is in the top 10 States when it comes to a tiny revenue surplus and this as a percentage of the GSDP is around 0.07%. Further, if you take the ratio of capital expenditure to total expenditure, the average figure between 2015 to 2020 Karnataka stands at 17% which again is among the top in the country. Likewise, the ratio of committed expenditure to revenue receipt stands at 39%, which is one of the lowest in the country, as compared to many other States such as Punjab and Kerala, which are beyond 75%. Furthermore, outstanding liabilities as a percentage of GSDP are at a low of 20%, which is amongst the lowest four of all States in the country.

> The path to the State's goal of a trillion-dollar economy cannot rest on the shoulders of services and technology alone

What is even more interesting is that based on the available data, on all the above parameters, the other four southern States broadly perform worse than Karnataka, except in the case of the growth of outstanding liabilities as a percentage of GSDP where Kerala and Andhra Pradesh do slightly better.

The big question remains as the incoming government moves forward to implement its guarantees: how much, for how long and how deep would the dent be on the State's fiscal deficit, which should not go beyond 3% of GSDP if one were to follow the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management norms? This will be a very tough mission impossible; for, if all the promises need to be fulfilled, then the fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio could well cross 4.5% (up from 2.6% currently).

Karnataka owes about ₹4,000-plus crore to power generation companies, which is of course much less than what Maharashtra and Tamil Nādu owe them (of the order of magnitude of ₹20,000-plus crore). Also, various government departments owe about ₹6,000-plus crore to various electricity distribution utilities. With the free power promise, these numbers can deteriorate. There is a little known and used clause through which CPSE dues can be recovered from the tax devolution to States by the Government of India. We can only hope that it does not come to that, for many other States are in a far worse position *vis-à-vis* power sector dues.

Skilling and reforms

Skills is one engine that needs to be revved up by creating industry-relevant skills, which are of value commercially. Telangana offers a good model to emulate, where the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) has trained and deployed an over 1,80,000 skilled workforce in the electronics industry. Karnataka needs to do this in electronics, software/Software-as-a-Service, and product management, to name a few areas. It must establish a greenfield skills and entrepreneurship university with intense partnerships with the private sector, on the lines of the institutes of eminence (outside University Grants Commission control).

Karnataka has had a history of broadly successful private-public task forces such as BATF, the Karnataka IT and biotechnology vision groups, all aimed at channelising private sector ideas and resources to enhance government effectiveness. Why not also establish a taskforce to oversee the design and rollout of government skill development initiatives? This will help get the right kind of skills that industry needs (and not the skills that government thinks that industry needs) and close the demand-supply gap of talent across sectors.

On agriculture

Karnataka has done some interesting reforms in agriculture, including in marketing and procurement, but the deepening of the value chain has not happened completely; otherwise it would not stagnate at around 11%-12% of GSDP. Value addition in different parts of the value chain is what brings more income to farmers. Karnataka should implement the agriculture startup policy to engender better funding, develop incubation infrastructure including branding and marketing, foster industry partnerships, and provide sensible state support in the form of market-aligned incentives. Further, it needs to amend the Co-Operative Societies Act to permit some kind of a *pari-passu* charge to rocket ship agriculture credit which remains low.

Finally, the IT capital of India and Asia needs to have a modern start-up policy in line with the demands of the times. This should come among the first five priorities of the new government to make the sector, currently embattled, roar again. It is rather anachronistic and strange that Karnataka does not have one, even though it is one of the world's largest startup ecosystems.

One estimate of the government suggests that getting to one trillion economy requires cumulative investments of ₹150 lakh crore (of which the government's capex needs to be about ₹25 lakh crore over the next 10 to 12 years. Where the private and government capex will come from is the real trillion-dollar question as Karnataka begins a new journey.

The views expressed are personal

The Pakistan establishment has an Imran Khan problem

D. Suba Chandran

is Professor and Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore

There was chaos in Pakistan after the arrest of ousted Prime Minister and chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) party Imran Khan on May 9, 2023. With the Pakistan Supreme Court declaring his arrest unlawful, and the Islamabad High Court granting him bail for two weeks on the crucial Al Qadri Trust Case, Imran Khan and PTI should be relieved. However, there is unlikely to be a thaw in the political climate, with the government, the PTI, the establishment and the judiciary taking strong positions. Mr. Khan's arrest while on court premises, a scathing press brief by the establishment's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) earlier, the violence on the streets, and the extraordinary relief granted to Mr. Khan by the judiciary should highlight the following four trends – of a bad situation becoming worse for Pakistan.

Prime target

First, the PTI's response to its leader's arrest. The extent of violence across the country and the number of PTI supporters taking to the streets should underline Mr. Khan's popularity. The violence and rage was widespread (from Peshawar to Karachi) and was not random and indiscriminate. The primary target was the establishment, its infrastructure and some senior military. The Corps Commander's residence in Lahore, the Frontier Corps Headquarters in Lahore, and the General Headquarters (GHQ) were targets. Anti-Army slogans and stone pelting of Army vehicles were witnessed. There are numerous videos on these attacks.

The violence and the rage have rattled the establishment more than the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)-led government. The PTI's anger seems more against the military. The establishment has never faced such fury before, with statements, slogans and violence against its property and personnel. If the PTI's followers are making their presence felt in the streets, the leaders of the PTI are targeting the government and the establishment on social media and with public statements. The government has decided to try the rioters under the Pakistan Army Act and Official Secrets Act; the Army chief has confirmed that the process has begun.

> A bad situation is likely to become worse for Pakistan, with four institutions at work pursuing different endgames

Second, the establishment's response and the larger meaning behind it. Just the day before Mr. Khan's arrest, an ISPR statement of May 8, 2023 (in response to Mr. Khan's accusation against a serving military officer being a part of an attempt to assassinate him) said: "These fabricated and malicious allegations are extremely unfortunate, deplorable and unacceptable." The statement also referred to a "consistent pattern" during the last year "wherein military and intelligence agencies officials are targeted". Similar statements from the ISPR in the previous year condemned Mr. Khan's comments.

Mr. Khan has been on an offensive against the military and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) ever since he was removed in April 2022. After the assassination attempt on his life in Wazirabad last year, he has become shrill, openly challenging the ISI's role with sharp questions. The Imran Khan-establishment equation that existed earlier has faded away. The establishment is no more a holy cow in Pakistan for political leaders, an image the establishment carefully cultivated since Pakistan's independence. It is now hostile. No other political leader in Pakistan could accuse serving officers of the military and the ISI. But now, the people are not only questioning it but also attacking it. The mob attack on the GHQ and the residence of the Lahore Corps Commander should underline how the public image of the military has taken a beating.

Does this now mean the establishment will go back to the Sharifs? Of the two Sharifs, Shehbaz Sharif has always been the preferred one. Shehbaz Sharif has been making all the right statements *vis-à-vis* the khakis. Or, will the establishment try out a new arrangement with Bilawal Bhutto? Asif Ali Zardari has been extra careful and been looking at the Islamabad pie, while working with the PML-N as a part of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). There is also an effort to break the PTI; some have started leaving the PTI; it may turn into an exodus.

Third, the next steps for the government, PDM alliance and the PML-N. The government should be elated with what had happened between the establishment and Imran Khan. The May 9 violence is being used to target other PTI leaders as well. Legally, the government feels it has a strong case under which it arrested Imran Khan, i.e., the Al Qadri Trust case. The PML-N would very much want to get Imran Khan disqualified, perhaps through the National Accountability Bureau.

Focus on Punjab

For the PML-N, the larger issue is about winning back Punjab. The PTI has made substantial inroads in the last elections and also during the by-elections. Given the growth in the pro-Imran base in Punjab, and the spontaneous anger following his arrest, the biggest challenge is in arresting Imran Khan's popularity. So, what is next for the government? It would be looking at charging Mr. Khan with a few more legal cases, or even try arresting him again later.

There is also the fourth issue facing Pakistan – the judiciary and Imran Khan. There is a belief that the judiciary is lenient towards Mr. Khan, and is siding with his position on major political issues. For example, the Supreme Court's position towards holding the elections is more in tune with the PTI's. The PML-N is unhappy with the judiciary's role in the latest arrest episode. The Prime Minister made a scathing attack, following the Supreme Court's declaration of Imran Khan's arrest as unlawful.

The four institutions, i.e. the government, the opposition, the establishment and the judiciary, seem to be pulling in opposite directions with different endgames. A bad situation is likely to become worse for Pakistan.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scrapping the ₹2,000 note

It is not known why the ₹2,000 note is being withdrawn all of a sudden by the government, immediately after the BJP's debacle in the Karnataka elections. The perception gaining ground is that the government could be wanting to wipe out funds lying with the Opposition parties ahead of the 2024 election. Cannot the government win elections based on its performance instead of resorting to gimmicks such as controlling the currency in the guise of a 'clean note policy' and curbing black money?

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

The common man is unable to make sense of banking decisions such as the the exchange/deposit of ₹2,000 notes or banking jargon such as "deposit base", "liquidity" or even "fiscal buffer". He is very baffled by the government's latest decision. Even after citizens surrender their 'Rooh Afza'-looking notes, can we rest assured that the Indian economy will be in the pink of health, and that notes of other denominations will not be pink-slipped similarly?

Avinash Godboley,
Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

The RBI's move is bewildering and appears to be a knee-jerk reaction. If the objective is to nab those hoarding black money in the form of ₹2,000 notes, there are other means of cracking down on tax evaders rather than shaking up the economy now and then curbing the supposed prevalence of black money. Also, not all cash is black and neither is holding cash in ₹2,000 notes illegal. The government has once again set the cat among the pigeons. People will again be traumatised, the economy would suffer, and it could even shake people's faith in the rupee. But the government refuses to learn its lessons.

N. Sadhasiva Reddy,
Everett, Washington, U.S.

Why is there a constant meddling with the Indian currency and notes? The government of the day appears to have some sort of a note fixation. Are elections going to be held soon?

Srikanth Venkatachari,
Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

It's time to ensure safer skies

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan

is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council, India

In 1997, a Bangalore-based NGO called the Environment Support Group filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the Karnataka High Court. A key concern of the group was that the second runway in Mangalore airport would not be able to meet the standards required while dealing with an emergency, particularly during landings and take-offs. The court dismissed the PIL. In a new PIL in 2002, the group warned, "The inevitable consequence could be that the plane will come crashing down the hillsides from a height of 80-100 metres..." The court dismissed this PIL too. The group challenged this verdict in the Supreme Court, which said, "We see no reason to interfere... We, however, clarify that in constructing the Airport, the Government shall comply with all applicable laws and also with environmental norms."

No lessons learned

But government agencies did not comply with laws or norms, and several violations led to the loss of 158 lives on May 22, 2010, when AIE 812 crashed on landing in Mangalore. The aircraft overshot the runway, plunged down the hillside as the petitioners had warned, and burst into flames. The PIL which highlighted all the violations was also dismissed by the Supreme Court, showing the judiciary's reluctance to act against government agencies. Only the pilot was blamed. The cover-up report, which contained a well-orchestrated litany of lies, resulted in lessons not being learned to prevent a recurrence.

The AIE aircraft was too high and fast and the touchdown was late. It crashed into the illegal concrete structure on which the Instrument Landing System Localiser antenna was mounted. The International Civil Aviation Organization had set January 1, 2010 as the deadline to ensure that all localiser structures were frangible. To make matters worse, the structure was replaced with steel girders. The court of inquiry team, headed by an Air Marshall, ignored both these violations.

The cardinal principle of an accident investigation is to identify the cause and prevent recurrence. This is where the investigations by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) have failed. India has had a string of runway overruns due to high and fast approaches and late touchdowns, resulting in hull losses. In 2005, an Air Sahara 737 overshot the runway. In 2009, a Kingfisher ATR touched down late from a high and fast approach and went off the runway. Both aircraft were written off. After the Mangalore crash, SpiceJet had a string of runway overruns resulting in hull losses. In all these accidents, the pilots were blamed but there was no introspection on why investigations had failed to prevent such accidents from recurring, indicating a lack of accountability and transparency in the system. Pilot error is an easy card to play to cover up the DGCA's incompetence.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation constituted the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC) after the Mangalore crash. Members of operations, aerodromes and Air Traffic Control (ATC) were tasked with identifying deficiencies and providing corrective steps. The focus was on critical runways, such as in Mangalore and Calicut. The CASAC pointed out the failure of the court of inquiry report in identifying serious errors and taking corrective steps. An inspection of Calicut showed shocking deficiencies. The CASAC warned the Ministry that the failure to provide the mandatory Runway End Safety Areas (RESA) at Calicut could result in fatal accidents on Runway 10 if any aircraft touched down late at high speed. It also pointed out that the narrow service road would prevent quick rescue by rescue and firefighting vehicles. But the Ministry and the DGCA ignored our warnings. An accident on August 7, 2020 cost 21 lives. Was anyone held accountable for this dangerous failure to take corrective steps? The AAIB report following the crash pointed out several deficiencies. The Ministry constituted a committee. One of its recommendations was to have RESA at both ends. But we are yet to see that being implemented as it will reduce the runway length and affect payload. The commercial interests of airlines seem to override safety.

When the same errors cause accidents over years, it means that there are serious deficiencies in training, problems with the safety audits by the DGCA, and that investigation agencies have failed in identifying the reasons for such accidents and providing corrective steps. Our airports are not conforming to international safety standards. Sadly, the Supreme Court has also turned a blind eye to the problem. The system takes advantage of the judiciary's blinkers, and safety is swept away under the carpet. There is no transparency or accountability. Fatigue, another serious safety issue, is not given the importance it deserves. Lives are considered cheap. Unless occupational safety and training are given top priority, the skies are not going to be safe.

A wing and a prayer

As a large number of aircraft is being inducted into our skies without the minimum number of qualified professionals to man critical stations such as cockpit, ATC and engineering, it is bound to lower the safety standards in India. Airlines are falling like nine pins due to failed financial audits by the DGCA. This is another dangerous trend. That pilots are fatigued and work to suit the commercial requirements of airlines is equally dangerous. The Chief Justice of India is proactive. Will he take up the PILs of the fatal Mangalore crash and set right the wrongs that are the results of inaction? Or do we continue to fly on a wing with prayers?

It has been 13 years since an aircraft crashed in Mangalore resulting in the deaths of 158 people, but investigation agencies have still not identified the reasons for such accidents and provided corrective steps

Why the BJP won Bengaluru

The results point to the stagnant political narrative of a vibrant metropolis

STATE OF PLAY

K.V. Aditya Bhardwaj

In the recently concluded Assembly elections in Karnataka, the only region to buck the anti-incumbency trend against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a big way was Bengaluru. The BJP improved its vote share by five percentage points in Bengaluru where, ironically, anti-incumbency against the BJP government seemed most visible. Prior to the elections, there were intense debates about the "crumbling civic infrastructure" and the hit that 'Brand Bengaluru' had taken, especially after the September 2022 floods. In fact, multiple pre-poll surveys had recorded high anti-incumbency against the government. But the results bore no evidence of this. On the other hand, the BJP improved its seat tally by one.

Fearing high anti-incumbency, the BJP denied ticket to its three-time MLA Aravind Limbavali from Mahadevapura, which houses the city's IT corridor and was severely flooded in 2022. Instead, the party fielded his wife. Though BJP leaders had mostly given up hopes on that seat, the party won by a huge margin of 44,501 votes as against the 17,784 votes-lead by which it had won in 2018.

On the other hand, two Congress MLAs especially faced a tough challenge. While former Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president Dinesh Gundu Rao won from Gandhi Nagar by a narrow margin of 105 votes, Sowmya Reddy lost the Jayanagar Assembly seat by the slimmest of margins – just 16 votes.

The BJP's internal assessment credits this feat to the three-part roadshow by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi that covered nearly all the 28 Assembly seats in the city. However, the reality seems far more complex and points to a strange stagnation in the city's politics for over a decade now.

The city has always seen pro-incumbency in favour of incumbent MLAs – of the 28 MLAs who have won in 2023, 20 have served at least three consecutive terms and three more at least two consecutive terms. In 2019, four MLAs – three from Congress and one from Janata Dal (Secular) – defected to the BJP, won by-elections and became ministers in the BJP government. All four of them won back their seats in the recently concluded Assembly polls, indicating the importance of the candidate over the party. MLAs seem to have a stranglehold over Bengaluru. They dominate its politics completely and have sidelined the local government. The city's civic body is without an elected council for over two years now.

'Adjustment politics'

This coupled with what is known as adjustment politics, which most political leaders of the city are accused of, has ensured votes in favour of incumbents. Leaders across political parties are accused of forming a cabal and fielding weak candidates against each other. This has created a situation where most constituencies are held by one party and there are no credible challengers from the other parties. It is in this manner that incumbents are encouraged. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said multiple times at party forums that there was an urgent need to put an end to 'adjustment politics,' but ticket distribution in the city did not reflect this and seems to have held the BJP in good stead, as the results show.

However, beyond these local reasons, there seems to be a committed vote base for the BJP in the city. For instance, the party has won all the three Lok Sabha seats in the city since 2008, when the delimitation of constituencies was carried out. Before that, the Congress consistently won one of the two Lok Sabha seats in the city.

While the "crumbling city" narrative is usually set by the middle-class resident welfare associations, techies, industry icons and Twitterati, it is also true that the same segments are considered a strong base for BJP.

There are two other reasons why the BJP may have fared better in the city in the Assembly polls. One, it carried out an aggressive campaign in the Old Mysore region to woo the Vokkaligas. This paid some dividends, with the party seeing a marginal increase in vote share in the area, which includes Bengaluru. Second, the 2023 mandate for the Congress seems to have come from the rural areas and the poorer parts of the State which were severely hit by price rise. Bengaluru, the economic engine of the State, has the largest chunk of middle class voters and may be relatively better off compared to other parts.

Antarctic sea ice cover hits many record lows

Barring March and April, on all the other days of 2023, the sea ice extent has remained the lowest-ever recorded

DATA POINT

Sonikka Loganathan

On February 19, the extent of sea ice in Antarctica fell to the lowest level ever recorded. This is in continuation of the worrying trend where sea ice cover shrinks as global temperatures rise. Sea ice melts during Antarctica's summer, which starts around October and ends in March, and then freezes again during the winter months.

Data show that in the last six years, the Antarctic sea ice cover has recorded major declines. The increased melting of sea ice leads to a rise in global sea levels, which poses a major threat to coastal cities. According to NASA, meltwater from Antarctic ice accounts for about one-third of the global average rise in sea level since 1993. **Chart 1** shows the Antarctic sea ice extent in million square kilometres. Barring March and April, on all the other days of this year, the sea ice extent remained the lowest-ever recorded. For instance, the 8.73 million sq km of ice extent recorded on May 20 was the lowest-ever recorded on that date since 1950. On many days, the sea ice extent declined notably lower than the levels seen in 2022, the year which recorded the now second-lowest summer sea ice extent in Antarctica.

Such a drastic reduction in ice also changes the way in which water flows across the world, affecting global weather and underwater ecosystems. The Southern Ocean, according to a report by the the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is important for the transfer of heat from the atmosphere to the global oceans. Scientists say that the increase in cold, fresh water from the melted ice leads to a disruption in the way hot, cold, fresh and salty water is circulated across the globe. This change in temperature and density can subsequently affect weather patterns, and alter deep water nutrient flows. Beyond the underwater nutrients, algae that feed smaller crustaceans like krill, which feed whales, seals, penguins and other birds, are found growing on the sea ice. Diminishing sea ice means that less food is available to support the Antarctic food chain. **Map 2** shows the Antarctic sea ice extent as of May 21, 2023. The white coloured portions are the sea ice extent as of May 21 and the boundary line points to the median sea ice extent between 1981 and 2010. The map shows that the current sea ice extent has shrunk considerably compared to the median.

With global temperatures rising, the Antarctic region saw higher air temperatures this year. Less sea ice also means that more of the sun's heat, which would otherwise be reflected back, is absorbed by the darker coloured ocean. Heat is trapped in what is known as the ice-albedo feedback cycle.

Anomalies in Antarctica's temperatures have been seen over the years. **Chart 3** shows global temperature anomaly data of the Antarctic region. The graph plots the increase/decrease of temperature (in °C) in the region, in the month of April each year, compared to the 1910-2000 average. In 2023, the April temperature in the region was 0.93°C higher than the 1910-2000 average for that month – the second highest increase in the millenia.

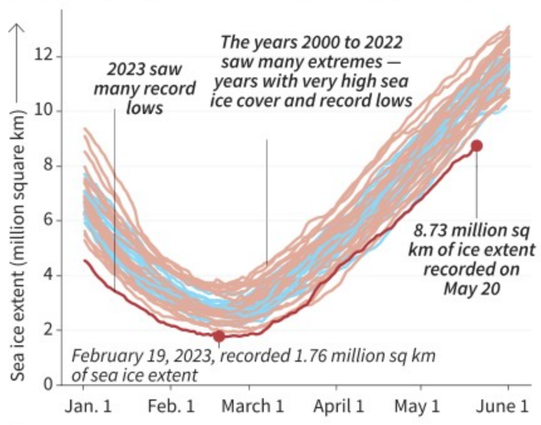
While ice sheets melt every summer, the record-breaking drop seen this year is far greater than the minimum levels recorded in the past. **Chart 4** shows the minimum Antarctic sea ice extent recorded every summer (in million sq km) since 1980. February 19, 2023, recorded 1.76 million sq km of Antarctic sea ice extent, the lowest-ever. Although ice does form again in the winter months, freshly formed ice is generally thinner than multi-year ice, which changes the overall surface area of Antarctica to a more fragile state.

On thin ice

The charts and maps are based on data collated from the National Snow and Ice Data Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Vanishing act: A fin whale is seen in front of icebergs at the northern coast of Elephant Island in Antartica. FILE PHOTO: AFP

Charts 1: The Antarctic sea ice extent in million square kilometres (2023, 2000 to 2022, 1950 to 1999)


Sea ice extent (million square km)
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Jan. 1
Feb. 1
March 1
April 1
May 1
June 1
2023 saw many record lows
The years 2000 to 2022 saw many extremes — years with very high sea ice cover and record lows
8.73 million sq km of ice extent recorded on May 20
February 19, 2023, recorded 1.76 million sq km of sea ice extent

Map 2: The map shows the Antarctic sea ice extent as of May 21, 2023

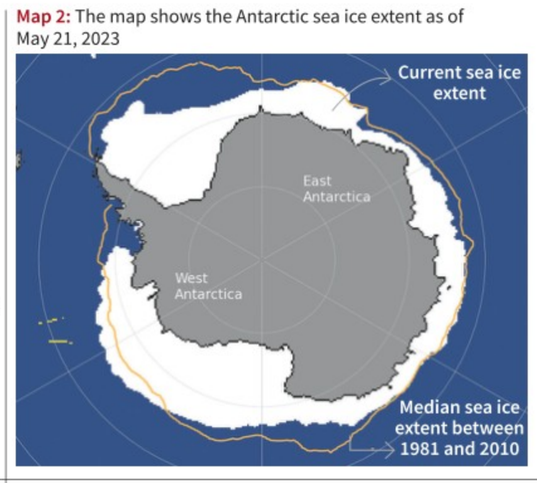


Chart 3: The change of temperature (in °C), in the month of April each year, compared to the 1910-2000 average

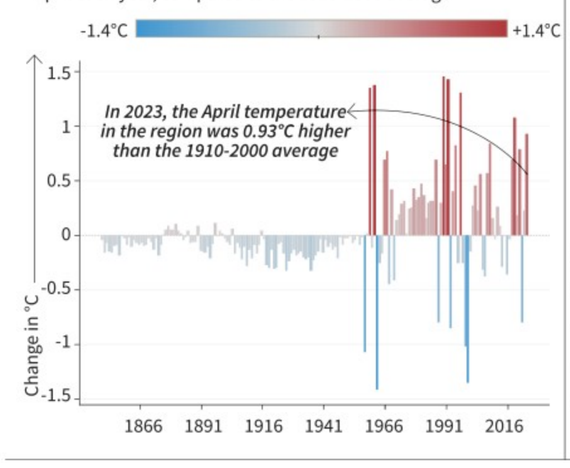
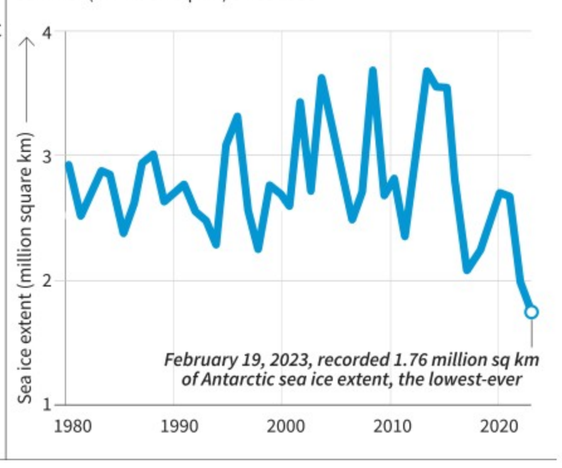


Chart 4: The minimum Antarctic sea ice extent recorded every summer (in million sq km) since 1980



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 23, 1973

31 die as Army disarms mutinous PAC units

Lucknow, May 22: At least thirtyone persons were killed and about 80 injured when men of the Provincial Armed Constabulary at Ramnagar, Kanpur and three other places rose in revolt as the army moved in to disarm the para-military force at about ten centres across Uttar Pradesh in the early hours of to-day. Army units and rebellious PAC men fought long-drawn gun battles at Ramnagar and Kanpur from the early hours. There was also a skirmish at Lucknow to-night. The Chief Minister, Mr. Kamlapathi Tripathi appealed late to-night to all sections of the society to co-operate with the Government in maintaining peace in the wake of acts of gross indiscipline and lawlessness by a "misguided section of the PAC." In a broadcast from the Lucknow station of All India Radio, Mr. Tripathi said that he was pained to note that the Government was compelled to take some "harsh" measures to deal with the situation. About 300 rebels have been arrested, including 34 leaders of the Police Association. The Army swooped on PAC Lines and Armouries to forestall violence from Police personnel whose discipline was suspect in the wake of yesterday's arson spree in the Lucknow University Campus. Exchanges of fire between troops and constables were reported from Kanpur, and other places also. There were casualties on both sides but officials declined to specify the number.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 23, 1923

Schooner escaped from cyclone

Calcutta, May 22: The schooner which has caught in the cyclone in which the "Okara" was lost has arrived in Calcutta. She was on voyage from Akyab to Colombo and was overtaken by cyclone in the Bay of Bengal. She was loaded with bags of paddy and had a crew of twenty. Rendered almost helpless by the storm she drifted to Contai and lay at anchor there. Seven of her lascars went ashore in a jolly boat, but before the boat reached the shore it capsized and threw the occupants into the water one of whom was badly injured and was removed to the hospital. People of the locality who at first took the men to be survivors of the ill-fated "Okara" gave them shelter.

From Page One

Fresh violence puts Manipur on edge

"Whenever you have some doubts or suspicion, please contact the police and the emergency numbers," he said.

A defence statement said a person identified as Chungkhomang Kipgen was caught with a 12-bore shotgun and seven cartridges from Imphal West district after he was found involved in a firing incident in village Moidangpok on Sunday night. Three injured persons were shifted to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences hospital. Security forces also caught three suspected troublemakers along with two single-barrel 12-bore guns after they threatened roadside vendors in the New Chekon area on Monday morning, it added.

Do not rush to swap ₹2,000 notes: RBI

"Let me assure you, we have more than adequate quantities of notes available already printed in the system... not just with the RBI, but also at the currency chests operated by banks. There is adequate stock available and there is no reason to worry whatsoever," Mr. Das assured.

Earlier in the day, the central bank directed all banks to ensure that the over-the-counter exchange facility for the high-denomination notes is provided to the public, as was being done in the past. The regulator also advised banks to provide appropriate infrastructure at their branches such as a shaded waiting space and drinking water facilities for people as the exercise is being conducted in the summer season.

"Banks shall maintain daily data on deposit and exchange of ₹2,000 banknotes in a format which includes the bank's name, date, amount of ₹2,000 notes exchanged, amount of ₹2,000 notes deposited, and total amount received and submit the same as and when called for," the RBI circular to lenders said.

Modi extols the value of Pacific island nations

New Delhi would continue to help the Pacific island states in "every possible" way, he said.

"Climate change, natural calamities, poverty and famine already existed but now new challenges are emerging as supply chains of food, fuel fertilizer and pharma are facing hurdles. Those we thought were reliable, we came to know they were not standing with us. In this time of difficulty, the old saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed has been proved. From vaccines to medicines, wheat and sugar, India has supplied the countries that required these items," Mr. Modi said.

The previous two meetings of the India-Pacific Islands Cooperation were held in November 2014 in Fiji and August 2015 in Jaipur.

Mr. Modi arrived in Port Moresby on Sunday after completing his engagements at the G-7 summit in Hiroshima, where India was a guest country. Welcoming the guest, Prime Minister James Marape said the members of the FIPIC had suffered because of the high tariff on energy and food.

"We are victims of global power play and we want you to be an advocate for us and sit in those meetings," he said, urging India to serve as the voice of the Global South in the G-7 and the G-20. Mr. Modi assured the FIPIC members of India's support in the field of sustainable development, science and technology and space application.

In a special ceremony, Governor General Sir Bob Dadae conferred the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL), the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea, on PM Modi.

Mr. Modi's visit to Papua New Guinea highlights the growing strategic significance of the Pacific Island nations.

G-20 meeting will expose false narratives on J&K: Jitendra Singh

First day of tourism working group meeting sees side meeting on film tourism; China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia keep off meeting; Kishan Reddy asks participants to share best practices and stresses the need to promote sustainable tourism

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

As many as 122 delegates, including 60 foreigners, arrived in Srinagar for the third G-20 tourism working group meeting on Monday, as Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh described the three-day event as one that will expose the false narratives emanating from Kashmir.

Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy and G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant received the delegates at the Srinagar airport. Local people, attired in colourful Dogri clothes and singing Kashmiri songs, welcomed the delegates.

Cultural exchange: Foreign delegates attending the G-20 handicraft exhibition in Srinagar on Monday. NISSAR AHMAD

Heavy security

A heavy blanket of security, with drones monitoring from the air and elite Navy commandos on the Dal Lake, was put in place in the Valley, in the wake of militant threats. However, visibility of the security personnel was significantly reduced on the streets. Scores of policemen were roaming in civvies "to keep an eye on anti-national elements".

The Srinagar meeting, according to the officials, has the highest participation registered compared with the first two tourism working group meetings at Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, and Siliguri, West Bengal, earlier. No delegates from China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia arrived for the meeting, official sources said.

On the first day, the delegates attended a side meeting on "Film tourism for economic growth and cultural preservation", which is aimed at drafting a national strategy on film tourism, officials said. The star attraction of the meeting was actor and producer Ram Charan. Mr. Charan and South Korea's Ambassador to India Jae Bok Chang did an onstage performance of the *Naatu Naatu* song from *RRR*.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Singh said, "The event will falsify all the false narratives created by vested interests or by cynics or self-styled critics. The event is a moment of rejuvenation and reincarnation."

He said the mindset of people in J&K was "changing". "Strike calls are being issued from Pakistan and in Srinagar as well but the people don't pay any heed now," Mr. Singh said. Mr. Reddy seconded Mr. Singh and highlighted the government efforts to revive film tourism across India.

Main meeting today

The delegates will attend the main meeting on tourism on Tuesday at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the Dal Lake.

Mr. Reddy asked the participants to share the best practices and stressed the need to promote ways and means of ecotourism and sustainable tourism during the upcoming meeting. "Without private investments, we cannot become a world tourist destination. We want global and domestic investment. We are also encouraging 100% FDI [foreign direct investment] under the leadership of PM Modi, including in Northeastern States and hill States," Mr. Reddy said.

Mushtaq Chaya, a hotelier, termed the G-20 meeting "a remarkable event that promises to be a turning point for tourism in the region". "It's a great day as people from all over the world have come to Kashmir today. What can be better for tourism than this?" he said.

To a question on some G-20 countries not sending their delegates, Mr. Kant said all the countries except China was attending the meeting.

"Some countries have been represented by people from the private sector. Some wanted to attend virtually, we wanted physical presence. Some are being represented by tour operators," he said.

NHRC notice to U.P. over death of father of rape victim

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police after a 45-year-old farmer, whose minor daughter was raped, killed himself in Pilibhit district.

It is alleged that the man was forced by the police to strike a compromise with the accused. The victim belongs to the Scheduled Caste.

The government has been asked to submit a report within four weeks.

"The report should include the present status of the matter and disbursement of the monetary relief to the victim under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995. The government has been asked to detail the action taken against the delinquent officer, responsible for the tragedy," the NHRC said.

(Those in distress can seek help and counselling by calling helpline: Sanjivini: 011-40769002)

SC to hear Abhishek Banerjee's plea on Friday

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court agreed to hear on Friday a plea filed by Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee against the long hours of questioning he is being subjected to by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the West Bengal teacher recruitment scam case.

Appearing before the Bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sanjay Karol, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi made an urgent mentioning for the case to be heard quickly. He said Mr. Banerjee, who is a nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, had on May 20 undergone nine hours of interrogation in connection with the probe. He sought a direction from the court to protect him from any coercive steps on the part of the Central agency.

While the CBI is probing the criminal aspect, the ED is looking into the money trail involved in the alleged irregularities in the scam.

Territorial Army steps in, takes control of fuel and LPG supplies in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Territorial Army (TA) stepped in and took control of oil installations in Manipur which were not operational, and augmented manpower where there is shortage to ensure supplies of essential petroleum and oil products, and refuelling of aircraft, Indian Army officials said. This was necessitated in the wake of a crisis that engulfed Manipur as employees and contract workers of oil marketing companies were not able to reach installations due to security constraints, or had to be evacuated due to ethnic violence, officials said.

"The installations were, therefore, either shut due to non-availability of employees or not fully operational due to shortage of manpower. This led to the operational necessity of deploying TA to manage the three vital oil installations which were the energy lifeline for Manipur – Imphal aviation fuelling station, Malom bulk oil depot, and Sekmai LPG (liquified petroleum gas) bottling plant," an Army official said on Monday.

First priority: Vehicles carrying essential goods arriving in the violence-hit Manipur. PTI

The unit deployed is the 414 Army Service Corps Battalion Marketing (TA), one of the battalions raised in 1983 to handle both internal and external emergencies, which is affiliated to the marketing division and has over a hundred employees of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). These employees are trained by the Indian Army and by the IOC to manage any oil installation independently, officials said.

As on date, the depot is functioning at the same level of efficiency as in the days preceding the crisis, with more than 400 tank trucks despatched to various petrol pumps across Manipur, and to units of the Manipur Police and Assam Rifles, the official stated.

Moreover, the TA battalion was also tasked with assisting the operation of the Sekmai LPG bottling plant, situated 26 km from Imphal, and approximately 8,000-10,000 cylinders were being despatched daily, officials said.

DST sacks Vigyan Prasar chief ahead of contract deadline

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Weeks after *The Hindu* reported on a proposal in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to overhaul several autonomous institutions funded by it, the head of one of the institutes – Vigyan Prasar – has had his services terminated.

Nakul Parashar

Nakul Parashar, Director (CEO), Vigyan Prasar – an organisation set up in 1989 and tasked with science popularisation – had a contract until December 2023. Multiple sources, who declined to be identified given the sensitivity of the issue, confirmed to *The Hindu* that Dr. Parashar received a termination letter from the DST last week. To be sure, the nature of Dr. Parashar's contract does not require the DST to give him prior notice.

The Hindu reported on April 29 that the DST, which is the main source of funds and sustenance for at least 30 autonomous research bodies – some of them of global prestige – was in the middle of a "rationalisation" exercise that involves merging, "disengaging" and even closure of some organisations.

While many of the institutions are expected to remain unscathed, in terms of research funding and jobs, Vigyan Prasar – at least according to plans laid out in 2020 – was proposed to be shut down with some of its functions absorbed within the DST.

Vigyan Prasar brings out science popularisation publications in several languages. In 2019, the DST even launched a science channel on Doordarshan, content for which was generated by Vigyan Prasar.

Cough syrups for export to be tested from June 1

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Cough syrup exporters will have to undertake testing of their products at specified government laboratories from June 1 before getting permission for the outbound shipments.

The direction has come after quality concerns were raised globally for cough syrups exported by Indian firms.

The specified Central government labs include Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, regional drug testing lab in Chandigarh, central drug labs in Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and NABL-accredited drug labs of States.

INS Sindhuratna sails for 97 days to India after major refit in Russia

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Navy's Kilo-class submarine *INS Sindhuratna* which underwent a major upgrade in Russia reached Mumbai after sailing for 97 days and almost 10,000 miles with two port calls – Le Havre, France and Cadiz, Spain – in between.

The submarine underwent a Medium Refit Life Certification (MRLC) process in Russia which extended its life. However, it faced transportation issues against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine.

The initial plan was to move it by a transport dock ship directly from Russia which did not materialise, following which the Navy tried to sea transport the submarine to Norway and then via a transport dock to India, which also did not materialise.

Crew aboard *INS Sindhuratna* in Mumbai after sailing for almost 10,000 miles with two port calls in between. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Following this, the Navy decided to sail it directly on its own.

"*INS Sindhuratna*, a Sindhughosh class submarine, returned to Mumbai after undergoing a major refit at the naval dockyard in Russia. The submarine undertook a gruelling 97-day return passage through the Norwegian Sea, English Channel and the Mediterranean Sea, and arrived in Mumbai on May 16," the Western Naval Command said on Twitter.

"The submarine with its modernised weapon and sensor suite will enhance the force level in the Western Seaboard, opening a new & exciting chapter in submarine operations in Indian Ocean Region," it added.

The crew was received by Vice-Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command.

With delays in induction of submarines, the ageing SSKs - 209s (German HDWs) and EKMs (Russian Kilos) are being put through the MRLC process which will extend their life by 10 to 15 years.

Al-Qaeda module busted, four arrested: Gujarat ATS

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Monday arrested four persons allegedly linked to al-Qaeda and exposed a module to hire people to spread terror in India.

The four accused are Bangladeshi nationals who were staying in India illegally. They were allegedly working for al-Qaeda in Gujarat, ATS officials said.

"Before they came to India, they were trained by al-Qaeda to recruit local youth by radicalising them," Deputy Inspector-General of ATS Deepan Bhadran said. They were also involved in raising funds and resources for the terror outfit in the country, he said.

Deepan Bhadran

They were arrested from different parts of Ahmedabad under relevant Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 38, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Mr. Bhadran told reporters at the ATS headquarters.

The accused were identified as Mohammad Sojib, Munna Khalid Ansari, Azharul Islam Ansari and Mominul Ansari.

Officials said the accused received instructions from Bangladesh-based handlers and forged documents to obtain Aadhaa, Permanent Account Number (PAN) card and other documents.

The ATS will conduct an in-depth investigation on aspects such as who helped the quartet in crossing the India-Bangladesh border, their method of collecting funds, local contacts, and the number of persons radicalised by them, he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Aim to lift AFSPA from Assam by 2023-end: CM

Press Trust of India
DERGAON

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reiterated here on Monday that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was likely to be lifted completely from the State by the year-end as law and order had improved considerably.

Mr. Sarma also said retired Army personnel would be appointed Additional Superintendents of Police to impart training to the police force in Assam.

The Chief Minister, who was speaking at the first Commandants' Conference at the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy here, said, "We are aiming at withdrawing AFSPA completely from Assam by the end of 2023. We will also rope in military personnel to train our police force." He also said, "This will facilitate replacement of Central police with Assam police battalions." The AFSPA, which gives the armed forces the right to arrest and search without warrants and use force without a magistrate's permission, has been lifted from most Assam districts except eight and one sub-division.

Joint Opposition meet soon; Cong. yet to take a call on backing AAP

Nitish carries feedback from five non-Congress parties to Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi; Congress's ambivalent stand on extending support to AAP's campaign to push back Centre's Delhi Ordinance complicates the Opposition equation

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties will hold a joint meeting by May-end as the first step towards building an anti-BJP forum ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024, Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal and Janata Dal(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan, alias Lalan Singh, said after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi here on Monday.

The Centre's Ordinance overriding the Delhi government's control over its officials has complicated the equation, with the Congress yet to take a call on supporting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to stall the Bill replacing the Ordinance in the Rajya Sabha.

"We will decide the date and venue of the meeting in a day or two," Mr. Venugopal said, adding that he expects a "vast majority" of Opposition parties to attend the meeting.

"We had a detailed discussion on the emerging consensus among parties," Mr. Ranjan said.

Deliberation under way: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi meeting Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at Mr. Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

This is Mr. Kumar's second meeting with the Congress leadership in a month's time. He met Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi on April 12. In the meantime, Mr. Kumar met West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, Odisha Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik, Telangana Chief Minister and BRS leader K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav. The five parties are not Congress allies and Mr. Kumar reached out to them to understand their position ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

"In today's meeting, Mr. Kumar shared the discussions he had with the five of them," a senior Congress leader said. According to informed sources, the two sides concluded that even if the BJD and the BRS – which in the past nine years of the BJP government have largely maintained a distance from the Opposition and inclined more towards the BJP – are to remain aloof, there are at least 400 Lok Sabha seats on which the Opposition formula of fielding a single candidate against the BJP can be arrived at.

Twist in the equation

The AAP's bid to stall the Ordinance seeking creation of the National Capital Civil Service Authority that empowers Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor to make the final decision on posting and tenures of Delhi bureaucrats, overruling the elected government, has introduced a new twist in the equation. Without the Congress's support in the Rajya Sabha, the AAP's campaign stands no chance. While the JD(U) and the RJD have assured Mr. Kejriwal of support, the Congress has not yet made up its mind.

Mr. Venugopal told *The Hindu*, "We will have to hold internal discussions and when the Bill comes to Parliament, we will speak to like-minded parties before taking the final call." The AAP, according to multiple sources, is making overtures to the Congress, including suggesting an electoral alliance in Delhi for the Lok Sabha polls. The sources also said that the AAP – that for long had skipped the Opposition meetings hosted by the Congress – is keen to have one-on-one meeting with the Congress leadership. The Congress has not responded to any proposals.

INBRIEF

Three Ministers inducted in Naveen Patnaik's Cabinet

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday inducted three new Ministers into his Cabinet after the resignation of Bikram Keshari Arukha as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and two other Ministers from their respective posts 10 days ago. Mr. Arukha, Sudam Marndi, and Sarada Prasad Nayak, who represent the Bhanjanagar, Bangriposi and Rourkela Assembly constituencies, respectively, were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Ganeshi Lal. Sameer Ranjan Dash, and Srikant Sahu were asked to put in their papers after controversies surrounding their personal lives.

Akali Dal dismisses talk of allying again with BJP

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Monday dismissed speculation about the possibility of an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Accusing the BJP-led Union government of taking several anti-Sikh decisions, SAD spokesperson Maheshinder Singh Grewal said, "...the SAD is allied with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Punjab. There is no proposal to have a truck with any other party, including the BJP." Mr. Grewal said the SAD had broken its ties with the BJP after the Centre betrayed the farmers by bringing in three farm laws in Parliament without any discussion with its alliance partners or other stakeholders.

NPP to expand beyond the northeast: Conrad Sangma

The National People's Party (NPP) is now eyeing Assembly elections in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, with the intent to expand its reach beyond the States in northeast, Conrad K. Sangma, NPP chief, said on Monday. "We have been working and getting good response and people have started meeting us and contacting and discussing with us," he said. Saying that the party had been focusing on the welfare of indigenous people, Mr. Sangma added, "There are areas with large indigenous and tribal populations in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh; there are minorities like Christians in Kerala."

Not inviting President to inaugurate Parliament unconstitutional: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mounting a scathing attack on the Narendra Modi government for not "inviting" President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate the new Parliament building, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said the President, being the highest Constitutional authority, alone represented the government, the Opposition, and the citizens alike.

Following up on Mr. Kharge's comments, senior leader Anand Sharma later addressed a press conference at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi, and asserted that it was "constitutionally improper" for the government to leave out the President, who heads Parliament.

Congress leader Anand Sharma addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

'Mere tokenism'

Earlier, in a series of tweets, Mr. Kharge said the inauguration of the new Parliament building by President Murmu would "symbolise government's commitment to Democratic values and Constitutional propriety."

The Congress president accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of reducing the President's office to "mere tokenism".

"It looks like the Modi government has ensured election of President of India from the Dalit and the tribal communities only for electoral reasons. While the then President, Ramnath Kovind, was not invited for the new Parliament foundation laying ceremony, Ms. Murmu is not being invited for the inauguration of the new Parliament Building," Mr. Kharge said.

"Parliament of India is the supreme legislative body of the Republic of India, and the President of India is its highest Constitutional authority. She alone represents government, Opposition, and every citizen alike. She is the First Citizen of India," he added.

During the foundation laying ceremony of the new Parliament, several Opposition parties had boycotted the ceremony since it was not the then President Kovind but Mr. Modi who had laid the foundation of the new building.

Inaugurate Parliament

On May 28, Mr. Modi is slated to inaugurate the new Parliament building after he was invited to do so by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Alleging that the Modi government has "repeatedly" disrespected propriety, the Congress chief said, "The Office of the President of India is reduced to tokenism under the BJP-RSS government."

'Not right decision'

"It is constitutionally not correct to take a major decision about the Parliament of India by excluding the head of Parliament from the decision-making, foundation laying and now from the inauguration. Article 79 makes it clear that Parliament of India comprises the President and the two Houses. First the Permanent House/the Council of States or the Rajya Sabha and the House of the People or the Lok Sabha," Mr. Sharma said, urging the government to rethink its decision.

Asked if the Congress plans to boycott the inauguration, Mr. Sharma said, "As of now, this is our stated position and the Congress president has made his statement through his tweets."

On Sunday, former party chief Rahul Gandhi had tweeted, "The President should inaugurate the new Parliament House, not the Prime Minister!"

Everything is fine in BJP, says Tripura CM

The Hindu Bureau
AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha on Monday dismissed rumours of a rift in the BJP State unit, a day after his predecessor, Biplab Kumar Deb, alleged interference by "outsiders" in party affairs.

He said everything was smooth and fine in the party. Dr. Saha gave a guarded response when asked to comment on the former Chief Minister's allegations. Mr. Deb made a quick stopover in Agartala on Sunday to express his concerns over the functioning of the party and spoke of his desire to serve the party.

Wrestlers accept Brij Bhushan's demand, want narco test under SC supervision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the agitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh continues, the wrestlers on Monday said that they were ready to undergo a narco test under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

The wrestlers said the test should be done on both the wrestlers and Mr. Singh under the supervision of the Supreme Court and it should be telecast.

Mr. Singh, who has been facing sexual harassment allegations, said on Sunday that he was ready to undergo a polygraph test if the same test was conducted on wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia.

Hulking up: Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik at a press conference in New Delhi on Monday. R.V. MOORTHY

Mr. Punia said, "We were ready for a narco test long ago. The said test should be done under the Supreme Court's supervision, and it should be telecast so that everybody gets to see what questions are being put to the WFI chief and the wrestlers who have registered a complaint," he said.

"Everybody, not just me, all the girls who complained are ready to undergo the narco test, but it should be made live, one should know what our country's girls have to go through," Ms. Phogat said.

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399207, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in
MCC/488/2021-G1-GAD 15/05/2023
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – STUDENTS INSURANCE
Malabar Cancer Centre (MCC) Thalassery, invited Expression of interest for Students Insurance. Last date for submission of EOI is extended to15/06/2023 at 12pm. Date/Time of bid opening 15.06.2023 at 3 pm. For details visit our website www.mcc.kerala.gov.in or contact Ph no: 9446136626 Sd/- Director

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer,System Operation Circle, Kalamassery, Ernakulam
E-Tender ID:2023_KSEB_577504_1, PAC:Rs.1,16,16,000/- Last date: 30.05.2023 11.00am
Office of the Chief Engineer,Distribution(Central), Ernakulam
E-Tender ID:2023_KSEB_577162_1, PAC: Rs.3,33,71,000/- Last date:09.06.2023 05.00pm
Office of the Chief Engineer,(S.C.M&C.S.C), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID:2023_KSEB_576609_1, Last date:07.06.2023 04.00pm
Office of the Chief Engineer, Transgrid, Shoranur, Palakkad
Bid No. CE/Transgrid/01/2023-24 dated 20/05/2023, PAC-Rs.265,27,63,692/-
Last date:29.06.2023 11.00am
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
- Ref: PR /MC1 /E413/ E- Tender /2023

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited
(A Government Company)
Regd. Office: KOTHAGUDEM– 507101, Telangana.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is a public sector company of state of Telangana in Southern India engaged in Coal Mining activity since 1889. It has 24 underground mines and 18 opencast mines operating with an annual production of 65.02 Mt and gross sales of Rs. 26,585.75 Cr. during 2021-22.
It intends to introduce Surface Miners/ Rippers technology through outsourcing on cost per BCM (Bank Cubic Meter) model in the proposed KTK OC III Expansion project in Bhupalpally area of SCCL. In this connection SCCL is proposing to conduct a 'Global Vendor Meet' for introduction of this technology.
SCCL invites EOI from financially strong companies with requisite technical know-how and experience in the said field of activities from Indian and International Companies registered under Indian Laws. Interested firms may furnish their EOI along with documents supporting their financial and technical strengths.
The documents shall reach the following addresses on or before 1st June, 2023.
For further technical details, date, time and venue for vendor meet please visit : www.scclmines.com
For Further Information/Queries, please contact the following address:
General Manager (Contract Management Department)
Corporate Office
The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.
Kothagudem Collieries (P.O)
Bhadradri Kothagudem (Dist.)
Telangana, India – 507 101 (PIN)
Tel.No: 08744-243665
Email : gmcmc_pd_crp@scclmines.com
General Manager
(Contract Management)
PR/2023-24/ADVT/CM/EoI/12
DIPR R.O. No. : 210-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
WBSEDCL
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
Extension of Time
Ref. NIT No.: WBSEDCL/PROJECT-II/RDSS/22-23/NIT 03e, **Dtd.:** 30.03.2023 of the Chief Engineer, Project-II, WBSEDCL for PK-06 (North 24 Parganas), PK-20 & PK-21 (Uttar Dinajpur).
Bid Submission End Date (Online) is hereby extended up to **29.05.2023** (**15:00 hrs.**).
For details, visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbsedcl.in**
ICA-T10557(4)/2023

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kaloor, Ernakulam-682017
Ph: 0484-2846700
E-TENDER
1) Selection of Agency for Deployment and Management of Techno Driven Parking Hub at various KMRL Stations
Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_575912_1
Last date of bid submission : 01st June 2023 05:00 pm
2) Development of area surrounding to Fortkochi Water Metro Terminal
Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_573001_1
Last date of bid submission : 24th May 04:00 pm
Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान
Indian Institute of Packaging
An autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India
Admission Open
PGDP: Post Graduate Diploma in Packaging
Eligibility: A candidate should have passed the full Graduate degree examination in Science (12th+3 years degree entire 5 years in science only) with Physics/Chemistry/Mathematics, Microbiology or Biochemistry as the main subject or one of them as second subject in the three year degree or Agriculture / Food Science/ Polymer Science or Engineering / Technology degree from AICTE/ recognised University with minimum second class.
M.S.: Master in Packaging Technology
(Affiliated by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University)
Eligibility: A candidate should have passed the full time (not by correspondence or part time) Graduate degree in Engineering & Technology or four year graduate in science.
M.Sc.: Master in Packaging Technology
Eligibility: A candidate should have passed the full time Graduate degree examination in Science (12th+3 years degree entire 5 years in science only) with Physics/ Chemistry/ Mathematics, Microbiology or Biochemistry as the main subject or one of them as second subject in the three year degree or Agriculture / Food Science/ Polymer Science or Engineering / Technology degree from AICTE/ recognised University with minimum second class.
CPE: Certified Packaging Technology (At Chennai & Online Mode only)
Eligibility: A candidate passed with full time Graduate degree in Engineering/Technology.
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Note: Candidates can visit the IIP website: www.iip-in.com and submit the application form through online/offline mode PGDP, M.S. and CPE. & www.ipu.ac.in for M.Sc.
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M.S., Hyderabad: onlinems@iip-in.com; Phone: +91 40 23814321
M.Sc., Delhi: onlinemsc@iip-in.com; Phone: +91 11 22166703-5
CPE, Chennai: onlinecpe@iip-in.com; Phone: + 91 44 2496 0730/1560

INBRIEF

Air India, Air India Express to operate special Haj flights

Air India and Air India Express will operate Haj flights from Jaipur, Chennai, Kozhikode and Kannur. The two carriers will fly close to 19,000 pilgrims to Jeddah and Medina in Saudi Arabia from the four cities. Air India, in the first phase, will operate 46 flights from Jaipur and Chennai to Medina and Jeddah, respectively. The first flight was operated from Jaipur on May 21 and the services will go on till June 21. In the second phase, Air India will bring back the pilgrims to Jaipur and Chennai from July 3 to August 2. Air India Express will operate flights from Kozhikode and Kannur from June 4 to 22. PTI

Union Education Ministry discontinues two awards

The Union Higher Education Ministry has discontinued the 'Shiksha Puraskar', launched by the Centre in 1992 for encouraging original writings in Hindi. The decision is part of the Union Home Ministry's move to rationalise various awards instituted by the Centre. The 'Hinditar Bhashi Hindi Lekhak Puraskar', an award given to promote writings in Hindi by writers from non-Hindi speaking areas, has also been discontinued. Under the 'Shiksha Puraskar', five awards worth ₹1 lakh each is given every year. The 'Hinditar Bhashi Hindi Lekhak Puraskar' carries a cash prize of ₹50,000.

Will bring Bill to link death and birth data with voter rolls: Shah

Union Home Minister says registration of births and deaths is important for updating citizens' register and list of people who avail schemes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Bill to link birth and death register with electoral rolls will be introduced in the next Parliament session, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.

The Minister said that registration of births and deaths is important for updating citizens' register, electoral rolls and list of people who avail themselves of welfare schemes.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the inauguration of the new census building here.

The decennial census that was to be completed in 2021 was indefinitely postponed, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government had not given any reason to further postpone the exercise, which was last done in 2011.

Mr. Shah did not mention when the next census will be conducted, but said that registration of births and deaths helps in making development plans in the period between the two censuses.

Amit Shah with Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan at the inauguration of the census building in New Delhi. PTI

Mr. Shah said, "The government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is going to make such arrangements that as soon as a person turns 18, the Election Commission [EC] will intimate him and make his voter card. In case of someone's death, the census registrar will send a notice to the family that they have received information about the person's death and the family has 15 days to object, following which the EC will remove his name from the voter's list."

The Union Minister also launched an upgraded sample registration system (SRS) mobile application system.

The SRS is a large-scale demographic survey conducted every year by the Registrar-General of India (RGI) office to estimate the birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators.

Plea in HC against exchange of ₹2,000 notes without proof

It is to ensure that no one deposits money in others' accounts, says advocate Upadhyay

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation, a public interest litigation (PIL) petition has been filed before the Delhi High Court against allowing the exchange of ₹2,000 banknotes without obtaining any requisition slip and identity proof.

Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, in his petition, sought a direction to ensure that ₹2,000 banknotes are "deposited in respective bank accounts only so that no one could deposit the money in others' bank account".

"About 89% of the ₹2,000 denomination banknotes were issued prior to March 2017 and are at the end of their estimated life span of 4-5 years. The total value of these ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation has declined from ₹6.73 lakh crore at its peak on March 31, 2018 (37.3% of notes in circulation) to ₹3.62 lakh crore constituting only 10.8% of notes in circulation on March 31, 2023," the RBI has said.

Advocate Upadhyay said a large amount of the ₹2,000 denomination banknotes has reached either lockers of individuals or has "been hoarded by the separatists, terrorists, Maoists, drug smugglers, mining mafias and corrupt people".

The plea said, "Recently, it was announced by the Centre that every family has an Aadhaar card and a bank account. So, why is the Reserve Bank of India permitting the exchange of ₹2,000 banknotes without obtaining any identity proof?"

On May 20, the State Bank of India (SBI), in a communication to the chief general managers of its local head offices in the country, instructed that the facility of exchange of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes to all members of the public up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time will be allowed without obtaining any requisition slip from the depositor.

Purchase of fuel using ₹2,000 notes spike to 90%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Cash purchase of fuel at petrol pumps using ₹2,000 notes has spiked to almost 90% of the daily sales as buyers rushed to tender the withdrawn currency notes.

Petrol pump dealers said cash sales before the announcement on May 19 of the withdrawal of the ₹2,000 note was only 10%, but now customers were using the withdrawn note to make small purchases of ₹100 or ₹200, expecting petrol pumps to return change.

They have now asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to instruct banks to provide enough small denomination notes to help serve customers smoothly.

Petrol pumps were allowed to accept old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes after the 2016 demonetisation of nearly 86% of the currency notes. Petrol pumps, however, soon turned into outlets to launder banned currency notes, leading to the government prematurely withdrawing the facility. This time, too, petrol pumps have become outlets to get the withdrawn currency out.

Delhi HC issues notice to BBC on its documentary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notice to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on an NGO's plea claiming its documentary, *India: The Modi Question*, casts a slur on the reputation of India and makes false and defamatory imputations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian judiciary.

Apart from the national broadcaster of the U.K., Justice Sachin Dutta also issued notice to the BBC (India) on a petition by the NGO, Justice on Trial, against the documentary that relates to the 2002 Gujarat riots. The High Court has posted the case for further hearing on September 25.

The NGO, represented by senior advocate Harish Salve, contended that the BBC had released a two-episode news documentary. The two episodes are stated to have been published in January 2023.

> It casts a slur on the reputation of the country and also makes false and defamatory imputations and insinuations against the Prime Minister...
> **JUSTICE ON TRIAL**
> petitioner

The NGO contended that the documentary contained content which "casts a slur on the reputation of the country and also makes false and defamatory imputations and insinuations against the Prime Minister of India, the Indian Judiciary and the Indian criminal justice system". The plea said the conduct of the broadcaster was actionable and had made them liable to damages.

The petitioner has sought damages of ₹10,000 crore in favour of the NGO and against the defendants on account of the "loss of reputation and goodwill caused to the Prime Minister of India, the Government of India, the government of the State of Gujarat as it was during the period of the Gujarat Riots, and also the people of India".

The Centre had earlier issued directions for blocking multiple YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the documentary.

The Ministry of External Affairs had described the documentary as a "propaganda piece" that lacked objectivity and reflected a colonial mindset.

This month, a Delhi court had issued summons to the BBC, Wikipedia and Internet Archives on a defamation suit filed by BJP leader Binay Kumar Singh in relation to the documentary.

(With PTI inputs)

Centre seeks stricter implementation of ban on e-cigarettes

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

With electronic cigarettes easily available online and at tobacco shops despite a ban, the Union Health Ministry has issued a public notice for stricter implementation of the Act which prohibits their manufacture, sale and advertisements.

The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act came into force in 2019.

The Ministry has directed all producers, manufacturers, importers, exporters, distributors, advertisers, transporters, including couriers, social media and shopping websites, shopkeepers, retailers and others not to directly or indirectly produce, manufacture, import, export, transport, sell, distribute and store e-cigarettes, whether as a complete product or any part thereof. It has also asked them not to advertise e-cigarettes.

"Offence of production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale [including online sale], distribution, storage and advertisement of electronic cigarettes is cognisable and punishable as per the statutory provisions of the Act," the Ministry added.

'Weak enforcement'

Binoy Mathew, manager, Voluntary Health Association of India, said, "The ban on electronic cigarettes was introduced to protect our younger generation from a new form of toxic addiction. However, its enforcement has been weak, resulting in the market being flooded with cheap and unbranded Chinese-made electronic cigarettes."

Education Ministry holds meet on PARAKH aimed at unifying 60 school Boards

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry organised a workshop in New Delhi on Monday with the aim of unifying a network of 60 school examination Boards of various States and Union Territories under one umbrella.

The workshop will study school assessments, examination practices and equivalence of Boards across the country.

The main component of this plan is PARAKH, the National Assessment Centre, which has been set up as an organisation under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The mandate of PARAKH is to work on bringing the school Boards across States and Union Territories on a common platform.

PARAKH aims to establish a unified framework for seamless transitions for students moving between Boards. FILE PHOTO

"As a first step, a workshop on PARAKH will act as a common platform for interaction of all stakeholders concerned in order to develop a holistic approach that ensures a fair assessment system which promotes equity in performance and equivalence in assessment of students," an official from the Ministry said.

Sanjay Kumar, Secretary (School Education), emphasising the need for equivalence of Boards said that the aim was to establish a unified framework that enables seamless transitions for students moving between different Boards or regions.

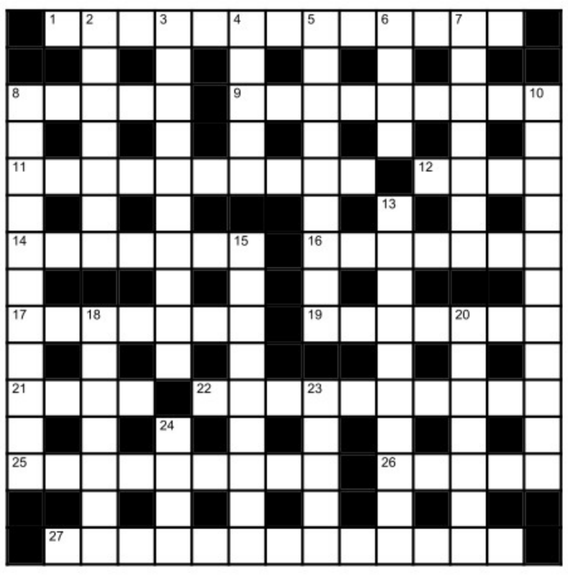
The Education Ministry official added that the discussion revolved around the need to reassess the prevailing rote examination culture in the education system.

TH CROSSWORD + 13872

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Safe golfer's reason for not hitting long shots? (3,2,3,5)
8 Battle to seize heroin by force in dock (5)
9 Extremely calm couple, so different after drinking bit of rum (9)
11 Blind date accepted by rebellious woman going astray (3,7)
12 Initially, just attach image file format (4)
14 Inaugural gift - stylish and select clothes (7)
16 Unscrupulous hero ditching model (7)
17 Active agent in toxin (7)
19 Once more going around river with a famous waterfall (7)
21 Extremely tight at first binge (4)
22 Wistful in hospital, overwhelmed by difficult time with bad flu (10)
25 Desire to check out attractive person having lunch with hot woman (5,4)
26 Surprise! Abruptly captures knight and mates (5)
27 Distressed by breaking fingers conducting stunt on top of elevator (5-8)

Down

2 African thug and anarchist caught (7)
3 Silly gaffes with some not following approved party line (3-7)
4 American in lounge keeled over - it's shocking! (5)
5 Spread rumour about stealing kiss on sleepover (9)
6 Losing head, yells and rows (4)
7 Daughter designed proper tube for dispensing liquid (7)
8 Raw red meat cooked over hour becoming tender (11)
10 Smart lawyers and members drinking beer and shaking a leg (5,6)
13 Understanding what makes one vomit over trail (10)
15 Left on edge by cutback in vital parts (9)
18 Chief takes a little while to reveal poker hand (3,4)
20 A female on vacation inviting fine character for liaison in France (7)
23 Show drug dealer quietly escaping (5)
24 Loafer in love, captivated by woman (4)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS5807 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	3	5	2	7	8	6	9
2	8	7	4	6	9	3	1	5
6	9	5	8	3	1	4	7	2
1	7	2	6	9	4	5	3	8
8	4	9	7	5	3	1	2	6
3	5	6	1	8	2	7	9	4
5	2	1	9	7	8	6	4	3
9	6	4	3	1	5	2	8	7
7	3	8	2	4	6	9	5	1

FAITH

Potter to Krishna's rescue

The pairs of opposites like positive and negative are important in our life. Negatives are to be eschewed and positives are to be adhered. All general rules such as helping others, remaining free from evil thoughts, speaking truth are common to all irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

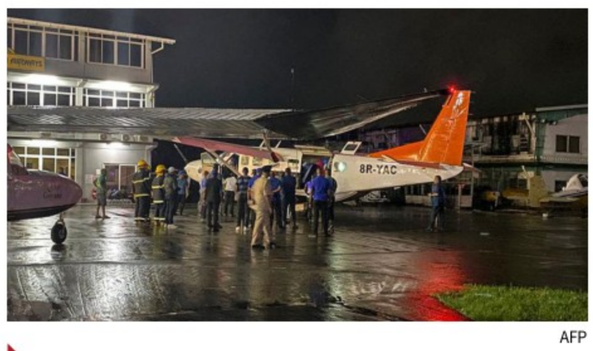
When the neighbours of Yasodha complained in a shivering chill about the pranks of Krishna to her, she decided to hand out punishment to Him. When chased by Yasodha, Krishna scampering and ducking for cover sneaked into Dadhipandan – a potter's house. He begged the potter to hide him under a pot and the potter cupped Him under a big pot. Asked whether Krishna is here, Dadhipandan told Yasodha in negative with a blatant lie.

Whether the potter was correct and whether he could utter a lie? In times of emergency it is said we can exceptionally deviate from the common rules. Pleased with his help, Krishna offered Dadhipandan all material things, but he wanted moksha. To get normal release, Krishna had to give the real release.

The eyes of the Lord are with redness (*semmai*) and whiteness (*venmai*). He is called 'Senthamaraikannan'. Red for fieriness, indicating His intent to extend punishment to us for our negative doings (*nigraham*) and white for coolness – indicating His readiness to pardon us and extend His blessings for our positive deeds (*anugraham*). If we pray His divine consort, God becomes cool through Her mercy towards us and automatically showers on us His Benign blessings, said His Holiness Sri Srinivasa Gopala Mahadesikan, the jeer of Poundareekapuram Ashramam in an Anugraha Bhashanam.

GEORGETOWN

Fire razes school dormitory in Guyana, killing at least 19 children



AFP

Fire raced through a school dormitory in Guyana early on Monday, killing at least 19 students and injuring an undetermined number of persons. The fire began shortly after midnight at the school that serves mostly indigenous children aged 12 through 18. Authorities said it was too early to speculate what might have caused it. AP

ISTANBUL

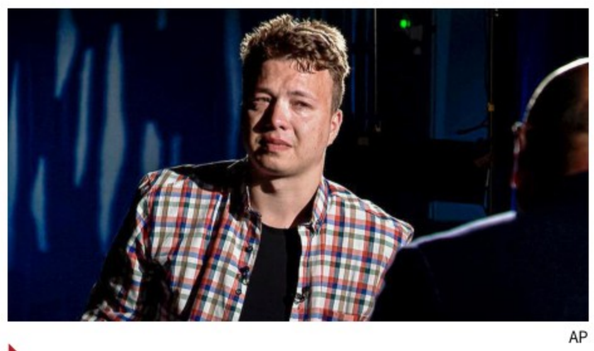
Turkey's third-place finisher in polls endorses Tayyip Erdogan

AP

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday secured the endorsement of an ultra-nationalist whose third-place finish helped force Turkey's first election runoff. Sinan Ogan's 5.2% of the vote in the May 14 general election deprived Mr. Erdogan of an outright victory for the first time in his 20-year rule. AFP

MOSCOW

Belarus activist plucked from flight in 2021 'pardoned' by authorities



AP

A Belarusian activist coerced to cooperate with Minsk's KGB security service was pardoned, weeks after he was sentenced to eight years in prison. Roman Protasevich was accused of coordinating protests against President Alexander Lukashenko in 2020. He was arrested in 2021 after his flight to Lithuania was forced to land in Minsk. AFP

WASHINGTON

Republican U.S. Senator Tim Scott makes White House bid official

AP

Tim Scott, the only Black Republican in the U.S. Senate, formally kicked off his 2024 presidential campaign, betting that his message of optimism will sell in a party in which many voters back Donald Trump. With only 1% of support among Republicans, he faces an uphill battle in his bid to win the Republican nomination. REUTERS

Brazil's Lula is 'upset' at not being able to meet Zelensky

Agence France-Presse
HIROSHIMA

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Monday he was "upset" he and Volodymyr Zelensky did not meet at the G-7 summit, adding his Ukrainian counterpart seemed uninterested in negotiating peace with Russia.

Mr. Zelensky had sought a one-on-one meeting with Lula, who has faced accusations of being soft on Russia over its invasion.

Both leaders said scheduling conflicts had prevented them from meeting – which Mr. Zelensky quipped had likely left his Brazilian counterpart "disappointed".

"I wasn't disappointed. I was upset, because I'd like to meet him and discuss the matter," Lula said.

Ukraine says fighting on the flanks of Bakhmut continues

Kyiv claims its troops are still holding on to one area of the city and making advances on its flanks; Wagner says it would transfer control of the ruined hotspot to the Russian Army by June 1

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine on Monday said it continued to fight for Bakhmut and still controlled a corner of the eastern city, as Russia's Wagner said it would transfer control of the ruined hotspot to the Russian Army by June 1.

Ukraine has denied that Bakhmut has fallen to Russian forces, saying it is hanging on to one area of the city and that battles are ongoing.

Last stand: Ukrainian soldiers walk in an area of the heaviest battles in Bakhmut in the Donetsk region of Ukraine. AP

Conflicting claims

Both Wagner and the regular Russian Army said over the weekend that Bakhmut has fallen to them. "The fighting continues," Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malyar said, a day after President Volodymyr Zelensky said Bakhmut was "not occupied" by Russia.

Ms. Malyar said Kyiv's troops retained control of the "Airplane" district of Bakhmut. "The battle for the dominant heights on the flanks – north and south of the suburbs – continues," she added.

The head of Russia's mercenary group Wagner, whose fighters have spearheaded Moscow's storming of Bakhmut, announced on Saturday that the city had fully fallen to his fighters. On Monday, he said the mercenaries would leave Bakhmut by June 1 and hand over control to regular Russian troops.

Wagner's defence lines

"Wagner will leave Artemovsk from May 25 to June 1," Yevgeny Prigozhin said in an audio recording on Telegram, referring to Bakhmut.

Prigozhin said the mercenaries had set up "defence lines" on the western outskirts of the city before a planned transfer of control to the Russian army.

U.S. signs security pact with Papua New Guinea amid competition with China

Associated Press
PORT MORESBY

The U.S. signed a new security pact with Papua New Guinea on Monday as it competes with China for influence in the Pacific.

Papua New Guinea's location just north of Australia makes it strategically significant. It was the site of fierce battles during World War II, and with a population of nearly 10 million people, it's the most populous Pacific Island nation.

The State Department said the new agreement provides a framework to help improve security cooperation, enhance the capacity of Papua New Guinea's defence force and increase regional stability.

Widening horizon: Antony Blinken, left, and James Marape sign agreements in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on Monday. AP

"The work that we're doing together to try to shape the future could not be more important, could not be more timely," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape said the pact is mutually beneficial and "secures our national interests".

But the agreement sparked student protests in the second-largest city, Lae. And many in the Pacific are concerned about the increasing militarisation of the region.

Israeli forces kill three Palestinians during raid on West Bank refugee camp

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli forces killed three Palestinian fighters on Monday in a raid on a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank in what the Army described as an operation targeting "terrorist" suspects.

In a statement, the Palestinian Health Ministry identified the three men killed in Balata camp in Nablus as Muhammad Abu Zaytoun, 32, Fathi Abu Rizk, 30, and Abdullah Abu Hamdan, 24.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party, said in a statement that the three were among the group's "fighters".

The group's emblem was wrapped around the foreheads of the men in a morgue, and their bodies shrouded in the Palestinian flag.

The Israeli Army said it had shot several fighters when a gun battle erupted during a "counterterrorism" operation. During the operation, "armed suspects fired at the soldiers, who responded with live fire. Hits were identified," it said.

Same story: Relatives of a Palestinian victim react during his funeral in the Balata camp in West Bank on Monday. AFP

Three persons held

The Army added in a statement that it "apprehended three wanted individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activity", and that weapons and ammunition were seized.

Palestinian presidency spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh described the killings as a "veritable massacre" and charged that repeated Israeli raids and attacks by settlers constituted a "major war crime and a collective punishment".

He said "silence" from the U.S. had emboldened Israelis to escalate attacks, calling on Washington to "immediately intervene to stop the Israeli madness that will drag the region toward explosion".

EU imposes $1.3 billion fine on Meta, orders to stop sending data to U.S.

Associated Press
LONDON

It is the biggest penalty since the European Union's strict data privacy regime took effect five years ago

The European Union slapped Meta with a record $1.3 billion privacy fine on Monday and ordered it to stop transferring users' personal information across the Atlantic by October, the latest salvo in a decade-long case sparked by U.S. cybersnooping fears.

The penalty of 1.2 billion euros is the biggest since the EU's strict data privacy regime took effect five years ago, surpassing Amazon's 746 million euro fine in 2021 for data protection violations.

Meta, which had previously warned that services for its users in Europe could be cut off, vowed to appeal and ask courts to immediately put the decision on hold.

No immediate disruption

The company said "there is no immediate disruption to Facebook in Europe." The decision applies to user data like names, email and IP addresses, messages, viewing history, geolocation data and other information that Meta – and other tech giants like Google – use for targeted online ads.

"This decision is flawed, unjustified and sets a dangerous precedent for the countless other companies transferring data between the EU and the U.S.," Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, and chief legal officer Jennifer Newstead said in a statement.

It's yet another twist in a legal battle that began in 2013 when Austrian lawyer Max Schrems filed a complaint about Facebook's handling of his data following former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's revelations of electronic surveillance by the U.S.. That included the disclosure that Facebook gave the agencies access to the personal data of Europeans.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-2262/01/2023/ 15717, dated : 18/05/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Construction of SFRC Compound Wall over Ac.25 patch of Land at Jagannathpur Mouza, Balianta Tahasil, Khurdha.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.73.58 Lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-26/2023-24	30.05.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	16.06.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-660 OIPR-14003/11/0049/2324

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IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. IDCO:H.O./P&C/EST/E-2256/01/2023/ 15721, Dt. : 18.05.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Proposed site Development of 60mtr. RoW Road at Mundamba Industrial Area, Khurda, Odisha.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.2657.07 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Tender Reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022	P&C/EST/E-27/2023-24	26.05.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	16.06.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-659 OIPR-14003/11/0048/2324

Biden, McCarthy to resume talks on raising U.S. debt ceiling with 10 days until deadline to avoid default

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Anxiety grew in Washington on Monday as U.S. President Joe Biden prepared to meet again with Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy for negotiations on raising the U.S. debt ceiling, 10 days before a key deadline to avoid a disastrous default.

After a weekend of near deadlock, Mr. Biden arrived back in Washington late on Sunday, cutting short a trip to Asia to resume talks ahead of the U.S. Treasury's June 1 cutoff date for Congress to authorise more borrowing.

Mr. Biden and Mr. McCarthy spoke as the President flew back to the U.S. from the G-7 summit in Japan on Air Force One.

"It went well," Mr. Biden told reporters of the phone call as he arrived at the White House Sunday night. "We'll talk tomorrow."

And earlier in the day, Mr. McCarthy had said the conversation was "productive".

Still, the two sides seemed far from a final compromise, as Mr. Biden said Republicans' latest demands for spending cuts as a condition for raising the U.S. government borrowing authority were "frankly unacceptable."

"It's time for the other side to move from their extreme positions," he said.

Mr. McCarthy said his own position remained unchanged. "Washington cannot continue to spend money we do not have at the expense of children and grandchildren," he said.

Mr. Biden said he was looking into an obscure constitutional clause in the 14th Amendment, which states that the validity of public debt "shall not be questioned" – and potentially authorising the President to circumvent Congress and raise the debt ceiling himself.

The Treasury Department says the government could run out of money and default on payments on its $31 trillion debt as early as June 1 if Congress, where Republicans control the House of Representatives, does not authorise more borrowing.

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IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-2036/01/2022 15781 dated : 20.05.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Utility corridor (60 m width over a length of 3km) between Gopalpur port and TATA Steel SEZ at Gopalpur, Ganjam District, Odisha on EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) mode.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.140.00 Cr. (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 18 (Eighteen) Calendar months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-25/2023-24	26.05.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	25.06.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-658 OIPR-14003/11/0047/2324

INBRIEF

ONGC, Oil India in talks for 50% stake in $3.4-bn Kenya oilfield

India's flagship overseas oil firm ONGC Videsh has got a new partner in Oil India Ltd. to replace a reluctant Indian Oil for the potential acquisition of a 50% stake in Tullow Oil Plc.'s $3.4-billion oilfield project in Kenya, according to people with knowledge of the matter. But the OVL-OIL duo now faces competition from aggressive Chinese energy giant Sinopec which has entered the fray taking advantage of the delay on the part of India in finalising the deal. PTI

BPCL Q4 net more than doubles to ₹6,478 crore

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) reported fourth-quarter standalone net profit more than doubled to ₹6,478 crore year-on-year. Revenue during the quarter climbed 8% to ₹1.33 lakh crore. For the financial year ended March 31, net profit plunged almost 84% year-on-year to ₹1,870 crore. The board has recommend a dividend of ₹4 per equity share. For the fourth quarter, the company's reported consolidated net profit more than doubled to ₹6,870 crore.

Transworld to delist Shreyas Shipping unit from NSE, BSE

Transworld Holdings Ltd. (THL) said it would delist the equity shares of its Indian arm Shreyas Shipping & Logistics Ltd. (SSL) from the NSE and BSE. SSL is into coastal shipping and owns and operates container feeders. THL said it believed delisting SSL would lead to enhanced operational flexibility. The move would reduce dedicated management time to comply with norms associated with listed entities, which can be refocused on its business, the firm added.

'Demand will pick up, spur capex as inflation recedes'

But, Finance Ministry also flags 'downside risks to growth and upside risks to inflation' in monthly economic review; cites uncertainties from the external sector and weather

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The first month of 2023-24 has seen strong, albeit seasonally moderated economic activity, and demand is expected to strengthen in the wake of receding inflation, fuelling a virtuous investment cycle whose signs are already visible despite higher interest rates, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

"There are downside risks to growth and upside risks to inflation, partly channelled through the external sector and partly originating from weather uncertainties. Yet a strong point going India's way is the strength of its domestic demand," it said in its economic review of April.

Signs of good health

Capacity creation and real estate are seeing traction

- Crops are unlikely to suffer despite uncertainty around the monsoon as reservoir levels are healthy
- Too early to forecast full-year outcomes but a good beginning is harbinger of positive outcomes

"Consumption has shown steady and broad-based growth, while investment in capacity creation and real estate is finding traction... As inflation further recedes, demand will become stronger and lay the foundation of a virtuous capex upcycle," it emphasised, while conceding it is too early to forecast the entire year's outcomes.

The Ministry said in the review that crops were unlikely to suffer despite uncertainties about the monsoon as reservoir levels were healthy.

TCS-led consortium gets BSNL 4G order worth ₹15,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A consortium led by Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. has received an order valued at over ₹15,000 crore from BSNL for the deployment of a 4G network across India, TCS said in a regulatory filing.

This is part of the Centre's move to empower Indian tech firms for the development of 4G, 5G and e-band spectrum products. In line with the Atmanirbhar initiative, BSNL is to deploy the 'Indian Core' for its 4G network.

'Private consumption, rural demand to drive Q1 growth'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Growth is expected to be driven in the first quarter of 2023-24 by private consumption, supported by reviving rural demand, and renewed buoyancy in manufacturing on easing of input cost pressures, Reserve Bank of India officials headed by deputy governor Michael Patra said in the May 2023 edition of the RBI Bulletin.

In April and the first half of May 2023, domestic economic conditions have sustained the quickening of momentum seen in the last quarter of 2022-23, they wrote in the chapter titled State of the Economy.

Stating that headline inflation eased below 5% in April 2023 for the first time since November 2021, they said corporate earnings were beating consensus expectations, with banking and financial sectors posting strong revenue performance, aided by robust credit growth.

GDP growth in the first quarter of FY24 is expected to be driven by private consumption, supported by revival in rural demand that is underway on the back of the encouraging developments in both the Kharif marketing season of 2022-23 and the Rabi marketing season of 2023-24, they said.

Sustained buoyancy in services, especially contact-intensive sectors, and moderating inflationary pressures, will aid growth momentum, they said.

Adani group stocks rally up to 19%

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Almost four months after a scathing report by a U.S.-based short seller accusing fraud, shares of Gujarat-based Adani Group's firms continued their rally on Monday, with the group's flagship Adani Enterprises climbing almost 19%.

Monday's rally in the 10 listed firms of the conglomerate came after a Supreme Court-appointed panel held that the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has "drawn a blank" and is in a "chicken-and-egg situation" in its investigation into the "ownership" of 13 overseas entities, including 12 Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), with stakes in the group.

After Monday's rally, the total market cap of the 10 listed Adani Group firms reached ₹10,16,212.15 crore, with their market cap soaring more than ₹1 lakh crore since Friday.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,964	0.38
US Dollar	82.84	-0.20
Gold	60,580	0.89
Brent oil	75.87	----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2326.10	370.05
Adani Ports	729.70	41.60
Apollo Hosp	4605.30	158.15
Asian Paints	3084.90	0.45
Axis Bank	917.55	-6.50
Bajaj Auto	4523.25	40.05
Bajaj Finserv	1413.00	-2.10
Bajaj Finance	6793.05	8.85
Bharti Airtel	801.85	-3.90
BPCL	361.60	1.30
Britannia Ind	4498.95	-0.90
Cipla	924.95	8.70
Coal India	238.70	-1.20
Divis Lab	3265.00	166.70
Dr Reddys Lab	4457.65	65.70
Eicher Motors	3545.45	-25.45
Grasim Ind	1718.35	2.25
HCL Tech	1119.85	24.50
HDFC	2704.75	-6.20
HDFC Bank	1641.05	-5.85
HDFC Life	567.00	9.40
Hero MotoCorp	2692.15	-20.85
Hindalco	407.70	0.95
Hind Unilever	2638.10	-3.35
ICICI Bank	950.35	-3.95
IndusInd Bank	1246.15	-1.85
Infosys	1292.80	23.90
ITC	424.75	4.90
JSW Steel	704.60	10.75
Kotak Bank	1940.20	-1.45
L&T	2216.60	26.55
M&M	1265.55	5.15
Maruti Suzuki	9156.65	50.70
NestleIndia	21494.80	-195.35
NTPC	174.10	0.80
ONGC	165.60	0.70
PowerGrid Corp	234.35	0.65
Reliance Ind	2455.00	13.05
SBI Life	1150.80	-3.35
State Bank	577.15	2.00
Sun Pharma	937.45	11.60
TataConsumerProduct	766.10	0.65
Tata Motors	522.50	-2.45
Tata Steel	105.00	0.35
TCS	3298.70	75.85
Tech Mahindra	1104.45	32.30
Titan	2712.55	10.90
UltraTech Cement	7715.65	34.35
UPL	670.40	2.40
Wipro	395.75	9.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.63	82.95
Euro	89.40	89.78
British Pound	102.85	103.25
Japanese Yen (100)	59.89	60.13
Chinese Yuan	11.76	11.80
Swiss Franc	92.33	92.69
Singapore Dollar	61.42	61.67
Canadian Dollar	61.15	61.39
Malaysian Ringitt	18.15	18.24
Australian Dollar	54.90	55.11

Source:Indian Bank

NCLAT upholds insolvency order in Go First case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on Monday upheld the court order admitting Go First's voluntary insolvency and asked the lessors, who had challenged the moratorium on repossession of aircraft, to approach the adjudicating court.

"The Appellant(s) as well as IRP [Interim Resolution Professional] are at liberty to make appropriate application before the Adjudicating Authority for declaration with regard to applicability of the moratorium on the aircrafts with regard to which leases in favour of the Corporate Applicant [Go First] were terminated (sic)," the NCLAT said in the order.

The lessors, SMBC Aviation Capital Ltd., GY Aviation and SFV Aircraft Holdings, moved the NCLAT after the NCLT-Delhi admitted Go First's plea for voluntary insolvency and granted it protection under a moratorium from its planes being seized as well as actions by other creditors over unpaid dues. The lessors who have appealed against the order had leased out 21 aircraft to Go First. Lessors have together terminated leases of at least 45 of 54 Go First's aircraft.

The lessors maintain that the moratorium order was given after termination of leases and requests to the DGCA for de-registration of aircraft and isn't applicable retrospectively.

However, Go First has said there are payments owed to lessors only due to defective engines supplied by Pratt and Whitney resulting in groundings. The airline has until Tuesday to respond to the DGCA's showcause notice, on the basis of which the regulator will decide whether to revoke Go First's permit to operate flights.

Shaktikanta Das

RBI's Das talks governance, ethics with PSB directors

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das met the board of directors of all public sector banks (PSBs) to discuss issues related to governance and ethics.

The one-day interactive meeting was organised by the Department of Supervision of the RBI.

Mr. Das addressed the directors – both whole time and independent – on issues related to governance, ethics and the role of the boards in assurance functionalities of the banks, besides highlighting the supervisory expectations, sources said.

Besides the governor, deputy governors and executive directors from the Department of Regulation as well as Supervision also spoke at the meeting.

Directors, including bank chairmen and nominee directors from the RBI and the government were invited to interact with the RBI top brass.

It may be recalled that the government, on the recommendation of the RBI, had introduced reforms in governance and had allowed more autonomy to the boards of public sector banks in recent times.

Apollo Tyres to keep capex 'light' for two years: CFO

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Apollo Tyres Ltd. (ATL) has decided to keep capital expenditure for FY24 and FY25 'light,' spending mainly on maintenance, IT digitalisation and sustainability-related products, a top company official said.

"The capex for this coming year would be very limited... at ₹1,100 crore, out of which ₹680 crore would be for India operations," CFO Gaurav Kumar said during a call with analysts.

"There is no growth capex planned based on the current utilisation levels, which are below 80%," Mr. Kumar added.

Life insurers' first-year premium slides 30%

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Life insurers' first-year premium declined 30% year-on-year to ₹12,565.31 crore in April, a lean business month coming as it does after a hectic March when customers make beeline to benefit from the accompanying tax break.

Dragging overall performance of the insurers was a 50% decline in the premium of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

First-year premium of the market leader totalled ₹5,810.10 crore (₹11,716.70 crore), as per IRDAI's new business statement of life insurers for April.

Private players – despite at least seven insurers reporting a drop – clocked a more than 8% rise in the first-year premium to ₹6,755.21 crore.

Emkay Research said the life insurance sector reported muted show in April with retail annual premium equivalent falling 2.5% YoY, "which doesn't come as a surprise as taxation changes related to high-ticket, non-linked policies led to bumper sales in March."

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SWOT ANALYSIS

du Plessis makes critical assessment of RCB

RCB skipper Faf du Plessis made a critical assessment of his side's performance in the IPL. "We weren't one of the best teams in the competition... we were lucky there were some really good performances throughout the season but we don't deserve to be in the semifinal," said du Plessis.

CLASS ACT

Kohli crosses 600-run mark in a single IPL season for third time

RCB's Virat Kohli has now scored 600 runs or more in three IPL seasons each. In 14 matches, he has scored 639 runs at 53.25 and a strike rate above 139. He has two centuries and six fifties. Kohli had previously done this in 2013 (634 runs, 16 matches, six fifties) and in 2016 (973 in 16 matches with four centuries and seven fifties).

BRIGHT FUTURE

Gayle predicts pay-hike for Rinku the next season

Chris Gayle believes Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh, who had a spectacular IPL 2023 season, will get a huge hike in his salary next year. "Rinku Singh has done this on a few occasions for KKR before. I am sure next year, he's going to get his pay-cheque a little higher because he's been the best performer with the bat for KKR."

MILESTONE

SRH's Vivrant scores highest on debut by an Indian in IPL

SRH batter Vivrant Sharma made the record of the highest score on debut in the IPL by an Indian player, breaking a 15-year-old record. Vivrant achieved the milestone against Mumbai Indians in Wankhede Stadium on Sunday. Swapnil Asnodkar of Rajasthan Royals scored 60 runs against KKR in Jaipur in 2008.

All set for battle royale in Qualifier 1

Dhoni looks to keep the CSK engine room thrumming, while for Hardik a successful title defence could mean anointment as future India T20I captain

IPL-16

Ayan Acharya
CHENNAI

The IPL 2023 Qualifier-1 between Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Titans at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday will see tactics, face-offs and, above all, raw emotions take centrestage. After all, if this turns out to be M.S. Dhoni's farewell season, it is Chennai's last chance to savour its *Thala* in action.

Chennai openers Ruturaj Gaikwad and Devon Conway, with their silky wrists, have found form consistently, and along with power-hitter Shivam Dube, they constitute CSK's engine room that has churned out success this year.

Telling contribution

The Titans, too, have had every member of their team make a telling contribution at some point.

They chased down 198 against RCB in the last league game – their highest successful chase – with ease, thanks to Shubman Gill, who comes to Chennai riding on back-to-back hundreds.

Moreover, GT's bowling attack suggests greater depth than its opponent's. Mohammed Shami's wonderful displays of seam and swing have not diminished over the last month, while Mohit Sharma remains composed enough with the ball in his hand to trouble the best batters.

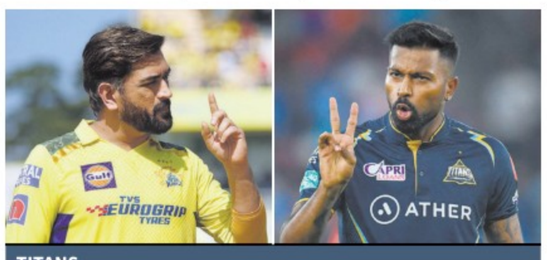
However, it is the spin bowling by Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmed that gives Gujarat a slight edge. They have bowled more skillfully in the competition than their CSK counterparts.

If the ball turns, the duel between Rashid and his opposite number, Ravindra Jadeja, will be a delight. Rashid's face-off with Gaikwad could be crucial. He has dismissed him twice in five T20 innings and conceded only 66 off 45 balls.

Meanwhile, Matheesha Pathirana will pose a stiff challenge for the GT finishers. He has 15 wickets from 10 games this season. All said and done, Dhoni has seemingly become more indomitable as captain in his twilight, while for Hardik Pandya, a successful title defence could lead to his anointment as India's future T20I captain. The symbolic importance is not lost in the larger context of Indian cricket.

Direct flight

Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings, the top two in the league, will be keen to punch a ticket to the final at the first opportunity. Here's how both have performed in Qualifier 1 and beyond



TITANS	
2022	Qualifier 1: bt RR by seven wickets Final: bt RR by seven wickets
SUPER KINGS	
2011	Qualifier 1: bt RCB by six wickets Final: bt RCB by 58 runs
2013	Qualifier 1: bt MI by 48 runs Final: lost to MI by 23 runs
2015	Qualifier 1: lost to MI by 25 runs Qualifier 2: bt RCB by three wickets Final: lost to MI by 41 runs
2018	Qualifier 1: bt SRH by two wickets Final: bt SRH by eight wickets
2019	Qualifier 1: lost to MI by six wickets Qualifier 2: bt DC by six wickets Final: lost to MI by one run
2021	Qualifier 1: bt DC by four wickets Final: bt KKR by 27 runs

** The Qualifier-Eliminator format was introduced in 2011*

Sixer Shivam! Dube has hit the most number of maximums (33) for Super Kings this season. R. RAGU

The four-time winner will host the defending champion for the first time
Dhoni's Super Kings will look to pull off a maiden win against Hardik's Titans in what will be their fourth meeting

TODAY'S MATCH

QUALIFIER 1

GUJARAT TITANS vs. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 3
GT 3 | CSK 0

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by five wickets, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Gill now has the belief to convert 50s into hundreds: Rashid

The Titan: Given the form he is in, Gill could flay attacks even with one hand. K. MURALI KUMAR

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

As long as Virat Kohli is active in the game, he will remain this era's best Indian batter.

On Sunday at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the 23-year-old Shubman Gill showed he may well come to occupy the throne once it falls vacant with a masterful century (104 n.o., 52b, 5x4, 8x6) to lead Gujarat Titans (GT) to a six-wicket victory against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB).

It felt like the passing of the baton, for Kohli had scored a scintillating ton earlier in the evening, only to be upstaged. Like Kohli's, it was Gill's second hundred on the trot. Whatever the master does, the pupil seemingly can do just as well.

"We were so lucky to witness a couple of great hundreds," said Titans' Rashid Khan. "Virat *bhai* and Shubman played unbelievably well. Shubman now has the belief that he can convert 50s and 60s into hundreds. He has been very consistent since last year and I am so happy for him."

It probably helps that Gill plays for a side that resembles a ruthless winning machine. Regardless of the result, the defending IPL champion would have topped the table. There was also the rain which delayed the start of the contest by 55 minutes. Yet, Gill and his teammates maintained razor-sharp focus.

"The message from the management has been very clear – to not worry about things that are not in our control. We prepare well and work hard in the nets.

"As soon as the game starts, we switch on. We wanted to go out and express ourselves and ensure we went into the playoffs in a positive frame of mind."

The support cast which has given leading performances

The real impact

It wasn't just the big names that powered the teams to the playoffs, there were also others who emerged from the dugouts and turned the spotlight on themselves

GUJARAT TITANS

VIJAY SHANKAR
Inns: 9 | Runs: 287 | HS: 63*
SR: 161.23 | 100s/50s: 0/3

MOHIT SHARMA
Inns: 11 | Wkts: 17 | BBI: 4/28
Eco: 8.15 | 4W/5W: 2/0

NOOR AHMAD
Inns: 10 | Wkts: 13 | BBI: 3/37
Eco: 7.96 | 4W/5W: 0/0

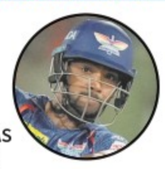
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

AJINKYA RAHANE
Inns: 9 | Runs: 282 | HS: 71*
SR: 169.88 | 100s/50s: 0/2

SHIVAM DUBE
Inns: 12 | Runs: 385 | HS: 52
SR: 160.42 | 100s/50s: 0/3

MATHEESHA PATHIRANA
Inns: 10 | Wkts: 15 | BBI: 3/15
Eco: 7.57 | 4W/5W: 0/0

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS



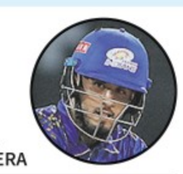
NICHOLAS POORAN
Inns: 14 | Runs: 358 | HS: 62
SR: 173.79 | 100s/50s: 0/2

MARCUS STOINIS
Inns: 14 | Runs: 368 | HS: 89*
SR: 150.20 | 100s/50s: 0/3

NAVEEN-UL-HAQ
Inns: 6 | Wkts: 7 | BBI: 3/30
Eco: 7.54 | 4W/5W: 0/0

MUMBAI INDIANS

TILAK VARMA
Inns: 9 | Runs: 274 | HS: 84*
SR: 158.38 | 100s/50s: 0/1



NEHAL WADHERA
Inns: 8 | Runs: 214 | HS: 64
SR: 141.72 | 100s/50s: 0/2

PIYUSH CHAWLA
Inns: 14 | Wkts: 20 | BBI: 3/22
Eco: 7.81 | 4W/5W: 0/0

COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR

S. Dipak Ragav

Titans and Super Giants, playing in their second season, qualified for the playoffs yet again The other two teams in the fray have nine titles between them: Mumbai Indians (5) and Super Kings (4)

For the sides which progressed to the playoffs, a handful of players, who weren't exactly chart-toppers, rose to the occasion when the team needed them the most.

TITANS

Mohit Sharma: After being with the team as a net bowler last year, he has come back strongly, using his experience with clever change of pace and judicious use of cutters to scalp 17 wickets.

Noor Ahmad: The left-arm wrist spinner has followed his compatriot Rashid Khan's footsteps and spun a web around the batters giving the team crucial breakthroughs at a reasonable economy rate.

Vijay Shankar: The TN player has continued his fine domestic form into the IPL, chipping in with valuable cameos in the middle-order. He has the best strike rate amongst the batters in his team.

SUPER KINGS

Ajinkya Rahane: While Ruturaj Gaikwad and Devon Conway have led the run charts, Rahane has been a revelation. Not known for his strike rate or big-hitting abilities, the middle-order batter has reinvented himself and helped the side win a few games.

Shivam Dube: He showed glimpses of his ability last year but has executed his role as spin-basher to the T this year. The tall left-hander has wielded the long handle with devastating effect smashing with 33 sixes, second behind Faf du Plessis (36).

Matheesha Pathirana: The Sri Lankan pace sensation played after Sisanda Magala got injured, and the 20-year-old with a slinging action has since grabbed his chances with both hands with his pinpoint, accurate yorkers in the death overs.

SUPER GIANTS

Nicholas Pooran: The swashbuckling West Indian has found a team that maximises his big-hitting abilities. He has owned the finisher's role and is the third-highest run-getter for his side at an astonishing strike rate.

Marcus Stoinis: The Australian all-rounder has enjoyed playing higher up the line-up giving stability and power to the Super Giants' top-order leading the run charts. His ability to shift gears seamlessly has proved vital.

Naveen-ul-Haq: The Afghan pacer has done a commendable job filling Mark Wood's shoes. The 23-year-old, who mixes up his yorkers with slower ones, has been effective in the death overs.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Piyush Chawla: The five-time champion's bowling attack has been the weakest in recent times, and the experienced leg-spinner has been the bright spot. After spending a year as a TV pundit, the 34-year-old has returned stronger giving crucial breakthroughs.

Tilak Varma: The left-hander produced consistent performances in the early part of the season when even the main batters were struggling. An injury has kept him out of the last five games and MI will hope he returns.

Nehal Wadhera: The youngster has been one of the finds of the season with useful knocks, including two half-centuries. He has shown remarkable adaptability in his rookie year.

Top of the charts

ORANGE CAP

Faf du Plessis (RCB)
Matches: 14 | Runs: 730
HS: 84 | SR: 153.68

PURPLE CAP

Mohammed Shami (GT)
Matches: 14 | Wickets: 24
BB: 4/11 | Econ: 7.70

Rashid Khan (GT) is also on 24 wickets but has an economy of 7.82

** Stats after the league stage*

THE GAME CHANGER QUIZ

1. What is common to Jim Laker, Anil Kumble and Ajaz Patel?
2. Who is the only golfer to win all four major champion ships consecutively, a feat known as the "Grand Slam"?
3. Which iconic athlete is often associated with the phrase "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" and won a gold medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics?

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INBRIEF

Medvedev wins maiden clay court title at Italian Open

Daniil Medvedev beat Holger Rune 7-5, 7-5 to win the Italian Open on Sunday, his first trophy in a clay court tournament and a major boost ahead of the French Open. Medvedev, who had been 0-3 in Rome prior to this year's edition, claimed his fifth title of the season and 20th of his career. Medvedev had knocked out 2017 champion Alexander Zverev and 2022 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas on his way to the final.

BTC postpones War Hammer Million race to May 27

The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club have decided to postpone the War Hammer Million to May 27 (Saturday).

Real lodges legal complaint after Vinicius racially abused

Real Madrid filed a criminal complaint with Spanish prosecutors on Monday over the racist abuse its Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior received during a weekend LaLiga match, calling it a "hate crime". "Real Madrid strongly condemns the events that took place against our player Vinícius Junior," the Spanish giant said in a statement.

Coleman lays down marker with 100m win in Bermuda

US sprinter and 2019 World champion Christian Coleman powered to victory in the 100m at the Bermuda Grand Prix on Sunday, scorching home ahead of compatriot Noah Lyles in a wind-assisted 9.78s. Lyles, the reigning World 200m champion, finished second in 9.80s, with Jamaica's Ackeem Blake third in 9.87s.

Aditi Ashok cards 69 to finish T-15 in Florida

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok shot a 3-under 69 on the final day to finish T-15 at the Aramco Team Series at West Palm Beach. The Indian stays on top of the Race to Costa Del Sol, the LET rankings, having played just four events, of which she won one. Diksha Dagar and Amandeep Drall carded 74 each and ended T-38th. Spain's Carlota Ciganda won the individual title.

Another feather in referee Szymon Marciniak's cap

After refereeing the World Cup final last December, Szymon Marciniak of Poland was picked on Monday to officiate the Champions League final between Manchester City and Inter Milan.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Floundering middle-order impacted RCB's fortunes

The top-three of Kohli, du Plessis and Maxwell did all the heavy lifting, scoring nearly three-fourths of the side's runs, while the bowling never morphed into a well-rounded unit

IPL-16

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

When Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell combine for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), memories hark back to the times when the trio of Kohli, Chris Gayle and A.B. de Villiers would send fans into raptures.

But camouflaged by the resounding success of the two batting trios is the fact that RCB, both then and now, has failed to evolve into a champion outfit.

Sunday's defeat at home to Gujarat Titans just stretched the side's wait for the elusive Indian Premier League title into the 16th year.

This season, Kohli, du Plessis and Maxwell did all the heavy lifting, scoring nearly three-fourths of their side's runs. The middle-order was non-existent, with the likes of Mahipal Lomror (135 runs from 12 matches), Dinesh Karthik (140 from 13) and Anuj Rawat (91 from nine) failing miserably.

Not again! Royal Challengers were left ruing yet season without a trophy. K. MURALI KUMAR

Missing Patidar

The injury-forced absence of Rajat Patidar – who scored 333 runs at an average of 55.5 and strike-rate of 152.75 in 2022 – was unfortunate, but it would be a stretch to conclude that all of the side's batting ills could have been cured by just one man's presence.

While there was some consternation about the pace at which Kohli made his runs – something he corrected in the final two matches, scoring centuries off 63 and 60 balls respectively – head coach Sanjay Bangar felt meagre returns from the middle-order could have influenced how the top-order played.

"That may have had an effect," Bangar said. "Maybe if our lower order was going strong and converting whatever fewer balls they had, we would have gotten 10-15 runs extra or maybe the top order would have played more fearlessly.

"Our batting in the PowerPlay and middle overs were excellent but our contributions in the last five overs in most games did hurt us a bit."

Injury woes

The bowling seemed to have the right personnel, but never morphed into a well-rounded unit. Mohammed Siraj was excellent but injuries meant Josh Hazlewood played all of three matches and Recce Topley one. Harshal Patel was totally off the boil (14 wkts at 32.43; econ: 9.66) and Wanindu Hasaranga a shadow of the bowler who excelled in the middle overs last year.

Ageing war-horses

What will also worry the RCB faithful is the fact that skipper du Plessis is 38, Karthik 37 and Kohli 34. A change of guard is imminent. The rebuild better start sooner rather than later.

First batch of Team India players leave for London

WTC FINAL

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The first batch of India's contingent – consisting of support staff members, support bowlers and some of the squad members – leaves for England early on Tuesday to commence preparations for the World Test Championship final versus Australia, to be played at the Oval in London from June 7.

The Hindu understands that head coach Rahul Dravid and members of the coaching and support staff – rejuvenated after a two-month break – will board a flight to London along with a few members of the squad, a reserve pacer and three net bowlers.

Promising pacer Mukesh Kumar, who is among the reserves, will travel as part of the first batch.

He will be joined by three more pacers – Aniket Choudhary, Akash Deep and Yarra Prithviraj – who have been selected as net bowlers by the national selection panel in consultation with the team management.

The squad members who will travel on Tuesday are from the six franchises whose Indian Premier League campaign ended in the league stage.

Dravid..ready for action
EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Hindu could confirm that Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj and Umesh Yadav are travelling as part of the first batch, with Umesh having been cleared by the National Cricket Academy.

While R. Ashwin is expected to join the squad mid-week, Virat Kohli's travel plans could not be ascertained.

Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat, recovering after hurting his ankle during the IPL, will travel later in the week.

Cheteshwar Pujara, participating in the County Championship, will join later this week.

The remaining members of the 15-member squad, along with reserves Suryakumar Yadav and Ruturaj Gaikwad, are expected to leave for London on May 29, the night after the IPL final.

Koepka strikes one for LIV with his fifth Major triumph

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Agence France-Presse
ROCHESTER

Brooks Koepka outduelled Viktor Hovland and Scottie Scheffler in a back-nine battle on Sunday to win the PGA Championship for his fifth Major title, giving the Saudi-backed LIV Series a milestone Major triumph.

The 33-year-old American captured his third PGA Championship and became the first player to win a Major since joining LIV, firing a three-under 67 to finish on nine-under 271. "It's incredible," said Koepka, only the 20th player to win five or more Majors. "I'm not sure I even dreamed when I was a kid I would win this many."

Norway's 11th-ranked Hovland, chasing his first Major, and American Scheffler, last year's Masters winner and the World No. 1, shared second spot.

There were a smattering of boos for Koepka as he walked onto the 18th green

Landmark victory: Koepka became the first player to win a Major since joining the LIV Series. GETTY IMAGES

to make the concluding putts for the title, a sign of the bitter acrimony that has engulfed golf since the launch of the LIV circuit last year.

But Koepka calmly finished off an impressive romp, his first Major win since a 2021 knee surgery sidelined him for most of the past two seasons.

Australia's Cam Davis and American Kurt Kitayama shared fourth on 277 with another LIV player, American Bryson DeChambeau. Four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy shared seventh on 278 with Austrian Sepp Straka.

The scores: 271: Brooks Koepka (USA — 72, 66, 66, 67); **273:** Scottie Scheffler (USA — 67, 68, 73, 65), Viktor Hovland (Nor — 68, 67, 70, 68); **277:** Cameron Davis (Aus — 71, 70, 71, 65), Kurt Kitayama (USA —70, 71, 71, 65), Bryson DeChambeau (USA — 66, 71, 70, 70); **278:** Sepp Straka (Aut — 69, 71, 73, 65), Rory McIlroy (NIR — 71, 69, 69, 69).

SNAPSHOTS

Sesks and Renars win ORLEN Rally of Poland

Team MRF Tyres scored a dominant victory in the third round of the FIA European Rally Championship with Martins Sesks and Renars Francis putting on a masterclass in the ORLEN Rally of Poland.
The Latvian duo started the day with a lead of 8.2 seconds and proved untouchable throughout the day. They took a further four stage wins and pulled their lead out to almost 40 seconds in their Skoda Fabia RS Rally2. It was the duo's first win of the season and the second of their career.
Team MRF Tyres continues to lead the teams championship, while Sesks moves to second in the driver's.

Clinical performance: Renars Francis and Martins Sesks, the winners in the Rally of Poland. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sameer wins gold; Rohan-Sikki duo takes silver

Indian shuttler Sameer Verma beat Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang 21-18, 21-14 to win the Slovenia Open in Maribor. In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy bagged silver after going down to Denmark's Jesper Toft and Clara Gravesen 12-21, 13-21 in the final.

Darshna placed third in women's skeet

Darshna Rathore shot the second-best score of 71, following rounds of 23, 23 and 25, to be No. 3 in women's skeet after three rounds in the shotgun World Cup in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Monday. Emmanouela Katzouraki of Greece was leading with 72.

Sharath-Sathiyan combine in last 16

The men's doubles pair of Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyan defeated the Hungarian duo of Anders Lind and Bence Majoros 11-5, 11-4, 15-13 to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the WTT World table tennis championships in Durban on Monday.
G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra, too, reached the mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals, with an 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-6 victory over Brazil's Eric Jouti and Luca Kumahara.
Other results (Second round):
Men: **Singles**: Lee Sang Su (Kor) bt Sharath Kamal 11-4, 13-11, 11-8, 12-10; **Doubles**: Shunsuke Togami & Yukiya Uda (Jpn) bt Harmeet Desai & Manush Shah 11-4, 11-3, 11-8
Women: **Singles**: Ying Han (Ger) bt Sreeja Akula 11-2, 11-2, 11-4, 11-4; **Doubles**: Sun Yingsha & Wang Manyu (Chn) bt Sreeja Akula & Diya Chitale 11-8, 11-8, 13-11.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Ten teams to take part in IDCA's T10 tournament

The Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), in association with the BCCI, inaugurated the fourth Women's T10 National Cricket Championship for the Deaf here on Monday at the Samprasiddhi Sports Estadio.
Ten State teams will compete in the tournament. IDCA CEO Roma Balwani, IDCA president Sumit Jain and former Kerala cricketer J.K. Mahendra were present at the inauguration event.
Karnataka captain Chaitra, the general-secretary of the Karnataka Deaf Women Foundation, stated that a few years ago, it was a struggle to find players to make a team.
The tournament will be broadcast live on Fancode and the IDCA's YouTube channel.

Easy for Veterans

Veterans FC whipped ISRO FC 6-1 in the BDFA C-division football league.
The results: Veterans FC bt ISRO FC 6-1; Hampinagar FC drew with Revive FC 0-0; Agaram FC drew with Maharaja Social FC 2-2.

Ahuja clinches overall gross prize

J.S. Ahuja essayed a nine-over par round of 81 to win the overall gross prize in the Tri Services golf tournament held at KGA here.
Sharad Junghare, with 40 stableford points, won the Gold Category (golfers with a handicap between 0-16).

Nikhil sets up RXCA's win

Nikhil George's 138 helped RXCA defeat School of Cricket in the Tiger Cup under-16 tournament here.
The scores:
DPS (South) 135/8 in 30 overs (Syaamantak 53, R. Sriyans 29) bt Silicon CA 136/6 in 26.4 overs (Gagan Sai 39).
RXCA 270/5 in 30 overs (Nikhil George 138, Rushil Ram 44, Siddharth 27) bt School of Cricket 87/9 in 30 overs (K. Gupta 4/8).

Harsha bowls Dooravani Cricketers (1) to victory

B. Harsha (six for 27) took Dooravani Cricketers (1) past Visweswarapuram CC (2) in the KSCA Group I, Division III league.
The scores:
Dooravani Cricketers (1) 196 in 46.3 overs (Mohit Pimplapure 54, B. Srikanth 38, Mahesh Patel 39 n.o.) bt Visweswarapuram (2) 84 in 26.1 overs (Shoaib Manager 32, B. Harsha 6/27, B. Vineeth 3/9).
Whirlwind Cricketers 260/9 in 50 overs (Mithesh Madhan 35, Gyan Somaiah 46, Naveen 55, Abhyudaya Udupa 55, Pavan Shirdi 3/50) bt Jolly Cricketers 209 in 43.3 overs (S. Darshan 29, Nikhil 75 n.o., Harshith Raj 31, Arnav Pillutla 3/30, Anirudha Joshi 4/28).
Malleswaram Gymkhana 225 in 47.1 overs (Samyak Patil 34, C.R. Kumarswamy 33, Gaurov Shanbhag 66, K.V. Bharat 59, Gaurav Chauhan 4/46) bt Cavaliers 213 in 45.2 overs (Jay Desai 35, Abhilash Fernandes 38, A.N. Shreyas 29, Pradeep 5/30).
RV Engineering College 270 in 50 overs (H.S. Sumanth 83, Naveen Shankara 89, Prajwal Kumble 3/41, M. Malatesh 3/28) bt Hammonds 208 in 47.1 overs (Dhanush Subramanya 45, N.G. Kushal 27, K. Nagendra 26, H.K. Vishwanath 3/31).
Engrades 153 in 34.4 overs (Surya Vamshi 51, Vijay Kumar 25, M.U. Sureen 31, Ronak Yelwal 3/17, R. Darshan 3/15) lost to Friends Union (2) 154/8 in 43.3 overs (Pranav Babu 62, R. Darshan 36, Yatish Kumar 5/23).
Minerva 253 in 46.2 overs (A.G. Anshuman 59, Arun Bharadwaj 74, S. Mithun 41, Kumar Sihag 3/34, M. Karthik 3/32) lost to Bangalore SC 256/8 in 49.1 overs (Sunil Kumar 35, B.C. Vinay 26, Nilesh Khilare 54, J. Karthik 51 n.o., H.S. Ajay 3/59).

Veer Ganapathy triumphs

Veer Ganapathy won the 'A' boys' category in the Indian Golf Union (South Zone) sub-junior golf tour championship at Bangalore Golf Course here.
The results:
Winners: A: Boys: Veer Ganapathy.
Girls: Ananthi Vivek.
B: Boys: Sushir Kumar.
Girls: Anoushka Suresh.
C: Boys: Jashan Ganapathy.
Girls: Tamanna Kandra.
D: Boys: V. Adit.
Girls: Kiara Yadav.
E: Boys: Advith Sunil.
Girls: Ridhima Kapoor.